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Healthy Democracy page 2 **Celebrating 61** page 10 **Soccer stars** pages 13-15

Time for a tune
Brenna MacCrimmon and Eve Goldberg practice their ukuleles ahead of the Pluck On performance in Haliburton last week. /TIM TOFFLEMIRE special to the *Echo*

Mayor McKechnie takes his seat

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's official, there's a new mayor in town.

Walt McKechnie was officially appointed as the mayor of Dysart et al for the remainder of the term, which wraps up later this year.

In a special meeting of council held on July 7, chaired by councillor Nancy Wood-Roberts, the council vacancy update was brought to the table.

Dysart CAO Tamara Wilbee explained that during a special meeting of council on June 16, the mayor's seat was officially declared vacant, due to the passing of Mayor Murray Fearrey at the end of May.

"In accordance with the 2022 Council Vacancy Policy, the vacancy had been advertised in local print media and online, and members were advised that if they wished to put their name forward to fill the seat of mayor, that they would need

see DEPUTY page 17

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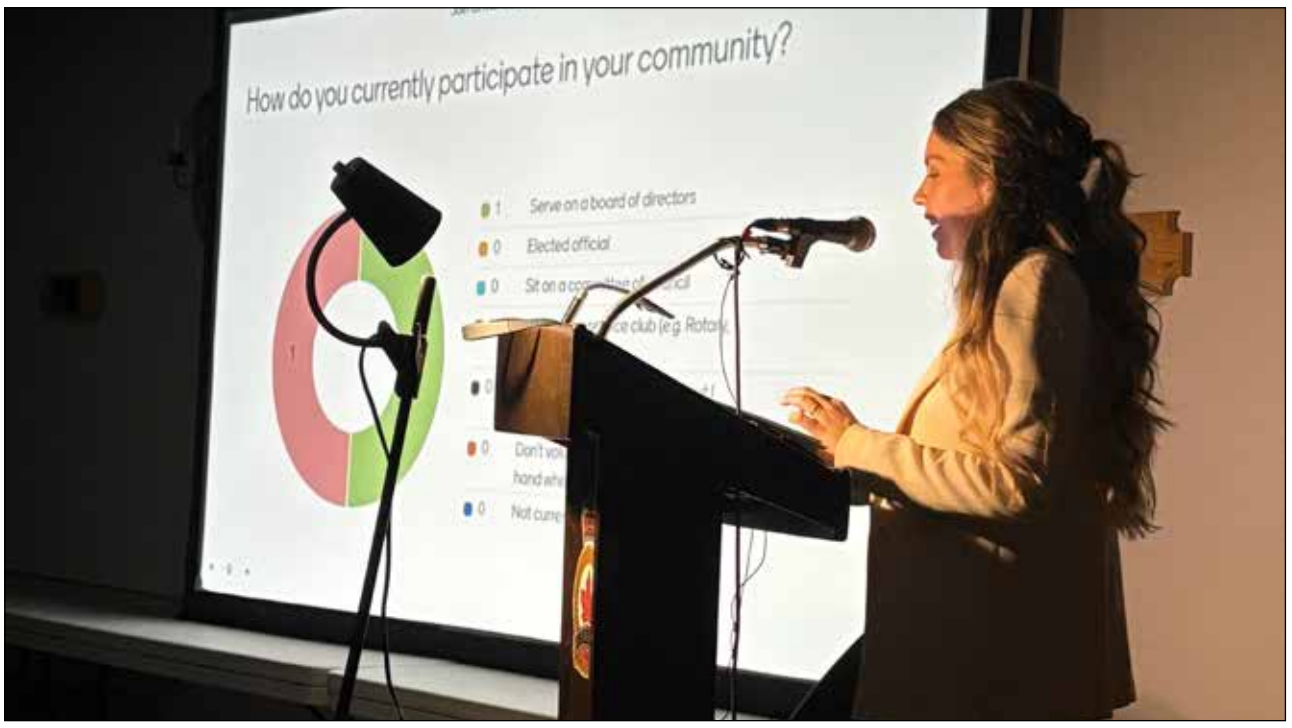
A hope for the vote; election talk with HHHDP

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor



Jessica Slade addresses a full house at the Haliburton Legion during the first of four workshops put on by the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project. The sessions were met with success, as they opened the door to muncipal conversations. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

With a municipal election just around the corner, the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project (HHHDP) is kicking their initiatives into high gear, in an effort to strengthen and promote increased civic engagement.

"We had a great response to our initial speaker series, with over 300 people attending in person and another 200 watching our videos online afterwards," said Lauren Hunter, chair of the HHHDP steering committee. "We heard from attendees that the sessions were very helpful in increasing their knowledge and understanding of our local government, which was one of our goals."

According to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the 2022 election saw a record low number for voter turnout across the province, averaging at 32.9 per cent amongst eligible voters.

Through a deeper dive with AMO, turns out that our local numbers are even lower than the provincial average, with only 31.47 per cent of voters casting their ballots in Dysart, 24.76 per cent in Minden, 28.9 per cent in Algonquin Highlands, and 21.26 per cent in Highlands East.

Out of the 24 council positions available across the County of Haliburton, 11 were acclaimed, meaning that no one ran against the candidate.

It was these statistics that were part of the foundation for what the HHHDP wanted to achieve: an accessible and constructive dialogue around municipal governance. "With a recognition that there is more work ahead to encourage as many people as possible to get involved in local municipal government, local politics, and elections, the HHHDP is moving into a new phase of work," said Hunter.

This includes a series of digital and mailed postcards about running for local office, a 'candidate menu' with information on every candidate seeking office across the municipalities, and a final card with information about voting to encourage people to cast their ballots. These cards will be going into local mailboxes this week.

"We know each of the municipalities is also working hard to share information about getting involved in the election," said Jessica Slade, a member of the HHHDP steering committee. "We want to help boost their efforts, try to do things in new and different ways, and work to make this election as accessible as possible to our whole community."

The HHHDP will be coordinating at least four in-person all-candidate sessions held in the fall - one in each municipality - to allow for residents to hear from and interact with candidates. Sessions will be moderated, non-partisan, and free to attend.

The dates for the sessions are as follows:

Highlands East - Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9:30 a.m.- 12 noon at the Cardiff Community Centre

Minden Hills - Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon at the Minden Community Centre

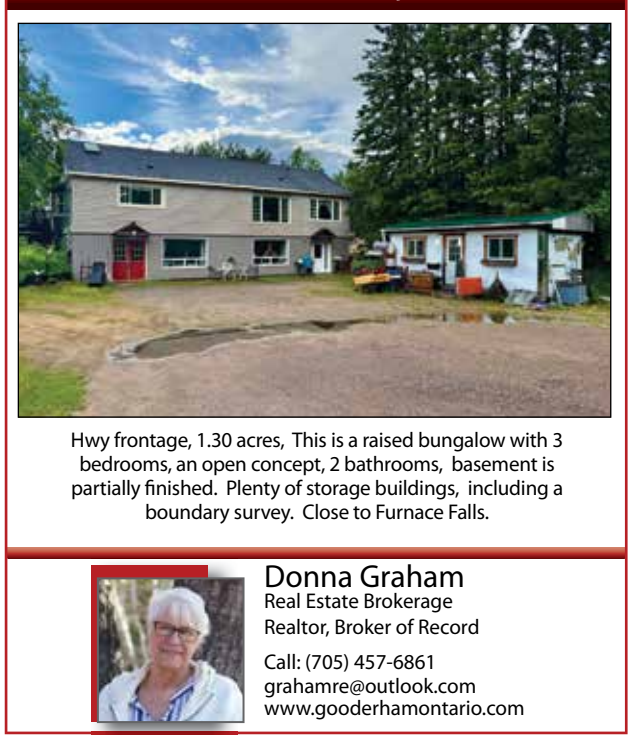
Dysart et al. - Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon at the Haliburton Legion

Algonquin Highlands - Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon at the Stanhope Firefighters Hall

"The HHHDP also encourages every resident of Haliburton County - seasonal, permanent, and renters - to make sure their voter registration is up to date," said Hunter. "If someone owns or rents property in a municipality, they can qualify to vote in that location - even if that means they vote twice (once in their 'home' municipality, and once in their seasonal or renting municipality)."

Visit registertovoteon.ca to confirm voter registration with Election Ontario before August 12. After that date, registration can be confirmed with individual municipalities.

The HHHDP is a project of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, and is grateful to be financially supported by HCDC (Local Initiatives Program) and the Telling Our Stories Speaker Series. More information, videos from the initial speaker series, and other resources are available at www.hhhdp.ca.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Coffeehouse in the park to fill mugs and hearts

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

A small sampling of the variety of mugs available during the upcoming coffeehouse. Proceeds from the event will directly support Fuel for Warmth initiatives. /submitted

It takes a village to support our community.

That is exactly the plan for the upcoming Coffeehouse in the Park event in support of Fuel for Warmth.

Local potter Michelle Anton and a group of her fellow dedicated potters were recently contacted by Fuel for Warmth, a local charity that provides heating assistance during the winter months.

A registered charity since 2014, Fuel for Warmth provides services like emergency fuel, wood, and helping with hydro bills in times of need.

With the main fundraising event for Fuel for Warmth being their annual Christmas Shindig, the Coffeehouse event is the perfect opportunity to earn much needed funds in their off-season.

This past winter, Fuel for Warmth had to limit the help they could offer, serving 111 calls for fuel and delivering 74 loads of wood.

Executive Director Sue Waite says that increasing costs of living, groceries, gasoline, and seasonal jobs all play a part in their increased demand.

With her experience in coordinating the Empty Bowls fundraiser, organizer Anton was approached by Fuel for Warmth to see if she was interested in assisting with a summer fundraiser.

Anton accepted the challenge with great enthusiasm, being backed by her fellow potters.

For the Coffeehouse in the Park event, potters will be donating their handmade mugs that guests will receive with their ticketed entry.

Making a mug is no quick task. Steps involved with making the piece include preparing the clay, throwing the vessel, trimming it, creating the handle, attaching the handle, bisque firing the mug, glazing it, a second firing, and even more steps for additional details.

Overall, it could take over a week to create one mug by hand. Luckily, the steps are often performed in batches to quicken the process.

"There are so many steps," said Anton. "It is a work of love. Potters do pottery because they love it."

Six local potters are involved with the fundraiser, in addition to potters from Toronto and beyond Haliburton County.

"You can really identify the potter," said Anton. "Each potter has a unique glaze and style.'"

Beyond the potters, the Coffeehouse in the Park event includes many volunteers, donated coffee from local coffee roaster County Coffee and food provided by SIRCH Bistro.

Local musicians Katherine Wheatley, Todd and Robyn, and Randall Ellsworth will be performing to provide entertainment for guests.

For the event, visitors will choose a mug, sample coffee either hot or iced, enjoy a snack, and listen to musicians for a wonderful afternoon event.

Hosting the event in the park is the perfect opportunity for seasonal visitors to learn of Fuel for Warmth and the valuable work they do for residents.

"I don't think people are aware of the struggles people face during the winter time," said Anton.

She hopes that seasonal residents will be interested in supporting Fuel for Warmth in the future, given how much demand the charity saw last winter.

So far, Anton says that the relationship formed with Fuel for Warmth has been a wonderful experience, with them heavily involved in the planning process and team of volunteers.

All of the money raised from the Coffeehouse in the Park event will allow them to continue keeping families warm this winter by paying for fuel.

"I am excited about the Coffeehouse in the Park and hope lots of people come out to hear the great entertainment and enjoy the desserts and coffee in their new pottery mugs," said Waite. "Michelle and the other potters have done an amazing job. I am looking forward to sharing what we do with a new group of people, and hope to raise awareness of the great need there is in Haliburton County in the winter months. "

Tickets for the Coffeehouse in the Park event can either be purchased in-person at the SIRCH Cafe and Bistro, located at 49 Maple Avenue, or purchased online through fuelforwarmth.com. The event will be taking place on Saturday, July 18 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Head Lake Park in Haliburton.

All participants are asked to bring their own portable chair. A rain date for Sunday, July 19 is available. If needed, the event will be taking place at the Haliburton Legion.

Home in the Highlands

Norm Foster's *Doris and Ivy in the Home* premiered on July 13 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The feel-good comedy is the second show in this year's Highlands Summer Festival all-Canadian lineup, and runs until July 20./TIM YANO staff photographer

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A new way to work with wood

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Graham Borgdorff knew there had to be another way.

For the licensed Haliburton-based carpenter, he often shied away from log homes. "We've always stayed away from them," he said, "It came down to attention to detailing for how the building functions in the future."

And frankly, wooden homes can be unpredictable.

Borgdorff is the owner and lead operator for Above Board Carpentry, focusing on well built homes that provide clients with exceptional comfort, health, and energy saving. As a red seal certified carpenter and a certified passive house tradesperson, Borgdorff and his team are committed to high quality builds that not only look good, but come with an extremely low operating cost.

"We have higher expectations of our homes now," said Borgdorff, "we spend a lot more time inside."

But with the unpredictability of solid wood homes, Above Board has traditionally steered clear of the rustic styled cabins. With age, water, and climate, solid wood has traditionally warped and shifted, mitigating the success around indoor operating costs.

But Borgdorff knew there had to be another way.

With a Dutch background, he started looking into international options for wooden builds, and stumbled upon a Finnish product, using laminated wood products. Relying spruce and pine products from Finland, the wood is specifically created for the purpose of sealing and laminating, allowing for the wooden finish feel, without the risks of splits and cracks from time.

A sample of an interior PremiumChalet, which local Graham Borgdorff is newly offering to a Canadian market, all the way from Finland. /submitted

"They are growing their forests for this specific purpose," said Borgdorff, "and it works."

One advantage to the style of build, is that old growth trees are not impacted. The whole log is not needed for the traditional log style, rather, smaller trees can be sustainably planted with the intention of laminating the pieces together. "Every log home in Europe is made with laminated wood," explained Borddorff, "they guarantee a very tight air exchange."

He knew there was another way.

So, he's bringing them to Canada.

Borgdorff crunched numbers, and realized that to replicate a plant that builds the pieces in Finland would be no less than $100 million.

With that option out the window, Borgdorff has been appointed as the lead for Ontario distribution for PremiumChalet.

The building kits are similar to a traditional log kit, but are dedicated to using sustainably sourced, laminated wood from Finland. Using arctic pine as the raw material grown in clean, natural forests far from cities, PremiumChalet contains organic antibacterial substances, which allows for resistance against moisture and mold, making the homes durable and healthy, and highly-sought after in rainy climates.

It was also noted that the laminated wood improves overall air quality, making it ideal for individuals with allergies or asthma.

In a day and age where trade with the United States sits on unsteady ground, Borgdorff is happy to offer an option with a European connection. "Canada is the natural new market for these," he said. "We build it better."

While Bordgorff is new to the role as lead on the Ontario market with PremiumChalet, he's eager to start offering the products to a local audience. Above Board Carpentry is still in operation, with PremiumChalet as a branch of their offerings. Additional information can be found at www.aboveboardcarpentry.com. "We asked how do we make our homes last longer?'" says Borgdorff, "and now you'll get the same look as a log home, but way better performance."

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Matt Duchene Golf Classic: the ultimate passion project

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Nobody commits to anything for nearly three decades unless you really, really care about it.

And for Troy Austen and Vince Duchene, the Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic is the definition of a passion project.

"I've had a team in it for all 28 years it's been around," said Duchene. "It started as a Rotary project," added Austen, "and so many of those people are still involved."

While it was started by the Rotary Club of Haliburton, the event has always been dedicated to fundraising for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Foundation. Like many experiences, through the COVID-19 years, the buzz around the event petered off. That's when co-chairs, Austen, a director with the Foundation, sat down with longtime friend and colleague, Vince Duchene. "We'd played the tournament every year since it started," said Austen. "So we wanted to see it come back to life."

Duchene then looped in his son, Haliburton local and National Hockey League player, Matt Duchene. The 35-year-old forward for the Dallas Stars has made Haliburton proud over the years, and returns to the community every year for the tournament.

From Left, Keaton Gadway, Ryan Bottum, Matt Duchene, and Alex Monk-Cray arrived at last year's annual golf tournament in style. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Last year, the event brought in over $233,000. This year, they're aiming for over $300,000. "We need it," says Austen, who just signed on to continue with his role on the Foundation board. "I'm learning so much about what's needed here."

Susannah Moylan is the event manager for the tournament. According to Austen and Duchene, Moylan is the real reason this event gets off the ground. "She's amazing," said Duchene, "she does absolutely everything."

Moylan, who is a director on the HHHS Foundation, recognizes the need for proper equipment in rural healthcare. She explained that if you took the local hospital and tipped it upside down, everything that falls out are items the community is responsible for paying for.

While the province supplies the building, all equipment, support systems, programming, and resources fall on the shoulders of the community.

And that's why this tournament has lasted nearly three decades.

"People care about this," said Austen. "We need pediatrics, we need long term care, we need mental health support. These are important things for up here."

One of the recent wins for the Foundation was the purchase of a CT scanner, through 100 per cent fundraising efforts. "Without the CT scanner, we would not have gotten all these new doctors," said Moylan. "We need to continue this, not only to support the patients, but to support the doctors as well."

While the goal for the July 17 tournament may seem lofty, the event has a waitlist to participate. With over 60 volunteers in place, plus meals provided by McFadden's Meat Market and the West Guilford Shopping Centre, the day is already primed to be a success.

Beyond the greens, the auction tables alone bring in over $80,000, with gifts and experiences donated from across the county. "Everyone wants to be a part of it," said Duchene. "And there are some major sponsors."

The event is scheduled for Friday, July 17 at Blairhampton Golf Course. Donations can be made to the event through www.foundation.hhhs.ca.

"It builds so much excitement in the community," said Austen, "even if they're not involved in golf, people want to help."

Annual Head Lake 'treasure hunt' just around the corner

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's one of the highlights of the summer. A significant weekend, that many plan their season around.

And it's celebrating 63 years.

The Haliburton Art and Craft Festival is slated for July 24, 25, and 26 this year in Head Lake Park. And with 100 artists, the event isn't designed to be a quick trip. It's about weaving and wandering, exploring and experiencing.

"This is the kind of festival that's small enough for you to explore, but you could still find something you didn't know you needed," said Rails End Gallery curator and festival organizer, Laurie Jones. "Something that will make your life more full."

Jones noted that 167 artists applied to the event, and they had 100 spots to fill. With ceramics, glass, sculpture, fashion, jewellery, wood, and visual art, there is something for every age and stage. "It's like a treasure hunt," said Jones. "That's the whole point."

The event drew nearly 5,000 visitors last year, a noted relief based on the significant wind storm that slammed Head Lake Park during set-up day. "This year, we've got a more detailed emergency management plan," said Jones, acutely aware of how weather-dependent an outdoor festival can be.

But despite a rocky start, the event was a success. Jones hopes to continue to build on that momentum and foster an environment where everyone feels welcome. "It's also about education at the gallery," she said. "This is also where the artist and the public come face-to-face, and you get things uniquely from that person."

Heading into its 63rd year, Jones said that about one third of the artists are entirely new to the festival, while the rest are long-time fan favourites. She also shared that there is a level of commitment from attendees, with "generational shoppers" returning year after year.

With a five dollar entry fee, attendees receive a pass that they can use to enter the festival any time over the course of the July weekend. On top of 100 featured artists and artisans, the event will also host open air painters and buskers, a family art making zone, a special cottage games tent, and the Rails End Gallery exhibition of contemporary clay and glass.

The event runs Friday, July 24 from noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, July 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, July 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "Come and find what you didn't know you were looking for," said Jones. "You never know what you'll find."

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The dinner table

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

GROWING UP, I remember that it was taboo to talk politics at the dinner table.

I mean, not my dinner table specifically. I was grateful for parents, grandparents, and family members who ran towards the topic, but I knew there was a time and a place.

As I looked at the absolutely abysmal statistics for how many people showed up to vote in their municipal election in 2022, I think we should start encouraging some more table talk.

I knew the provincial average was low. But what I didn't realize was that all four of our municipalities fell way under that average line. Highlands East saw just over 20 per cent of their eligible voters on election day. The highest turnout was Dysart, with a mind-blowing 31.47 per cent taking the time to cast their ballots.

Now I never aced my math classes, but there seems to be significantly more individuals airing their concerns for our sidewalks, our roads, our taxes, our events, and our politics on Facebook, than the number who actually completed their civic duty back in 2022.

But that's okay. We get another chance.

And I've been impressed with the chatter around this election so far. I've had a number of people approach me, asking for my take on certain candidates. People are curious. People have questions. People want to know.

I don't know the specific reason for the extremely low voter turnout. Laziness? Misinformation? Ambivalence? Or maybe there are some people who just don't know where to start?

I think it's time to break down the barriers of politics. While the dinner table topic was once shoved off the edges alongside your elbows, maybe it's time we bring it up again.

With so few people going out to vote, that very likely means that your own friends, your own family, your own colleagues, didn't head to the ballot box.

Maybe that's where the conversation starts. "Are you voting in the next election?" "Who are you thinking of supporting?" "What are your reasons for that?"

Ask your partner, your kids, your mom, your dad. Talk to your colleagues, your friends, your acquaintances. Understand the stances of our candidates, and whether they represent the greater good. Where do they stand on climate change? On local development? On planning acts and history preservation and celebrating our LGBTQIA+ friends?

Do they have the best interest of the community as their why? Or are they looking for a soapbox to tower over others? Are they fuelled by a bone to pick, or does their heart beat for home?

We need to ask these questions, and more importantly, we need our friends, our families, our partners and kids and moms and dads, to ask them as well.

So let's talk politics. Let's have constructive conversations, knowing that our actions will impact the trajectory of our communities down the road.

Because while our elbows should maybe stay off the dinner table, there's always room for politics.

You can help prevent battery fires

Humans & Technology

Erin Kernohan-Berning

NOT THAT long ago, our mobility while using electronic devices was limited to how long the power cord was. Relatively small, quickly charging lithium-ion batteries now form the backbone of our consumer electronics, portable power tools, e-bikes, and vapes. Lithium-ions have given our devices the portability we expect today.

Ottawa Fire Services have reported that 10 fires so far this year in the City of Ottawa have been linked to lithium-ion batteries. Other major Canadian cities have also warned their residents about the rise in fires caused by these ubiquitous batteries. In the last week, Health Canada issued a recall notice for Rowenta brand cordless vacuum cleaners, as well as the Super Off-Road solar wireless power bank, due to overheating batteries.

Odds are you have a device with a lithium-ion battery within reach right now. But before you side-eye your phone or your laptop, it's important to remember that when these batteries are in good condition and handled safely, they are quite safe. However, when lithium-ion batteries do ignite, they do so quickly and vigorously. So, it's important to know how to properly care for your battery powered devices, charge them safely, and recognize the signs when things aren't right. This way, you can avoid a dangerous situation.

Like other types of batteries, lithium-ion batteries use a chemical reaction to generate power. However, batteries age and that chemical reaction can become unstable and form undesirable byproducts including gases. This can cause the battery to swell which can cause your device to warp as it pushes on adjacent components – this can look like a laptop that will no longer sit flat, keyboard keys and trackpads knocked out of alignment, or seals and seams being pushed apart. The older the device, the greater the risk of this happening.

If you have a swollen battery in your device, you don't need to panic. But you do need to take action. First, never attempt to charge a swollen battery. If the battery is just swollen, but is otherwise not emitting any odours, smoke, or heat, put the device in a cool, dry place away from anything flammable and let the battery run down. If the battery is emitting heat or fumes, put it outside in a fireproof container such as a metal bucket with sand. This will give you some time to think through your next steps.

A simple swollen battery more often than not can be replaced. The biggest risk of fire from swollen batteries, and lithium-ion batteries in general, is when they are punctured. Depending on the device, you may have to contact the manufacturer or an authorized repair service. iFixIt.com includes repair tutorials for many devices, however I wouldn't recommend this unless you are already very comfortable with repairing your own devices. A good repair service should be able to do this safely for you, as well as properly dispose of the swollen battery.

If the device is destined for disposal, it's important to ensure that you are disposing of the device in accordance with your local regulations. According to Statistics Canada, in 2021 four per cent of Canadian households put unwanted computers in the garbage rather than to a designated e-waste depot, and three per cent put their unwanted cellphones in the garbage. This can create a fire hazard when garbage is compacted resulting in batteries being punctured. Disposing of your device in the appropriate facility will ensure that it is handled correctly and safely. If you have any doubt as to how to dispose of your electronic device, speak to your local municipality or landfill attendant.

The best prevention for lithium-ion battery fires is to treat your batteries well. Regularly running your device down to 0 per cent, or constantly having your device plugged in and at 100 per cent can contribute to an unhealthy battery. If you know you are not going to use a device for a few weeks, try and store it at around 40 to 80 per cent. Make sure that you are using the charger that came with the device, or a recognized quality brand, and always charge your device on a firm surface like a table – soft surfaces can retain heat and overheat the battery. If you notice your battery is running out quickly, or not charging properly, consider getting the battery replaced before it becomes a hazard.

Lithium-ion battery fires are dangerous. When they happen they can be fast and explosive, and cause real damage to you and your home. A little caution and understanding can go a long way to preventing them. As users of these devices we can do our part by understanding the signs of when a battery is becoming unsafe, knowing how to handle a swollen battery, and learning how to dispose of our electronics properly.

points of view

Roughing it

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

I THINK a lot of people in rural areas have a quiet but firm belief that their urban counterparts are soft. More specifically, we tend to believe that those who live in rural areas can endure more – both physically and mentally.

No one knows why that is, but there are theories. Some say it's because we put up with longer, harsher winters and spend more time in the outdoors. Others suggest it is because we go about our lives in spring and summer being fed upon by black flies, mosquitoes, deer and horse flies. Some will even argue that we are mentally tougher because we are continually exposed to newspaper columns such as this one.

You're welcome.

All that may be so, but a recent visit to the west, with a stop in Vancouver, has showed me what I believe to be the real reason.

It is the toilet paper.

If the toilet paper in Vancouver is any indication at all, this is what makes rural people tougher.

While our toilet paper is serviceable, it is also a no-frills kind of stuff that is meant to be septic system friendly – and possibly a useful substitute for tasks where fine sanding is called for.

Not to overstate it, but the toilet paper in Vancouver, on the other hand, has made me believe in angels. Yes, I am now certain that, somewhere in the industrial area of heaven, there is a company making toilet paper made solely from the discarded feathers and down of angel wings.

It is that soft.

It is so pleasant that if I were to give advice to Vancouver's tourism board, I would tell them to mention the toilet paper prominently in their brochures – heck, maybe even to provide samples at whatever tourism event they attend.

In our defense, our toilet paper is not nearly as soft, but it does serve a purpose. For, if anyone around here were lost in the bush for several days, we would feel no major hardship if we had to use leaves, tree bark, or even raspberry canes. Honestly, this might even make us stay out a bit longer.

It's been a while since I've been to Toronto or other cities in the south, but I assume there is soft toilet paper there too.

If so, it's no wonder these people are not as mentally and physically tough as we are. They don't really know what hardship is until they come to the cottage.

This also clarifies what they mean when they say they are going to the cottage and "roughing it."

I was thinking about this, just after my morning coffee, and it occurred to me that this is a classic case of "what doesn't kill me makes me stronger."

But it also made me think that the inventor of three-ply toilet paper has done humanity a disservice. Sure, one ply was also a disservice. And two-ply is a little less so. But, for the love of God, where does it end?

A quick internet search, which is now indelibly etched on my search history, shows that there is a four-ply toilet paper. Which leads me to ask, "How much of the magic carpet does a person need to ride?"

Who knows where it will end?

All I can say for certain is this separates us all along the Great Divide.

pic *of the* past

A group of happy campers gather at the water's edge on Soyers Lake. Bottom far right is Florella Arnot. Left of Florella is her sister Eva Stevenson. The boy holding a bottle in the middle is Donald, Florella's son. At the top right is Gordon Arnot. Gordon's daughter Leslie (Arnot) Socha brought this photo in to the *Echo*. She says her grandfather, who owned land along the shoreline would drive in to Haliburton to pick visitors up from the train. Life at the lake was much the same then: campfires, sing alongs and picnics. (Although it seems the teatime decor was a bit fancier!) /FILE

Cars

Our road

Down

Sharon Lynch

THEY MOVED through dappled sunlight as it filtered between the trees nudging the road's shoulders. Jane and her dad had just made a run to the store for milk, bread and a *Toronto Star*. Oh yes – also cigarettes for him. She liked it when it was just she and dad. He only came to the cottage on weekends; the rest of the week he continued working in the city.

Those long cottage summers when the hot sunny days seem to go on forever were the best part of the year for Jane and her brothers. But she missed her dad. When he drove north on Friday nights he arrived hot and a little wilted but always glad to be by the lake. Of course everyone wanted a piece of him before he drove back to the city Sunday night.

So getting to do the nightly store-run, just she and he this time, was special. And this time he said she could have another driving lesson on the way back.

At 14 Jane was getting impatient with life. She wanted to do things instead of being told, especially by her big brother, that she was 'still just a kid'.

When they had reached the spot, her dad pulled over onto the gravel shoulder. They switched seats. Carefully and oh so slowly Jane nudged the car over onto the road. They had done this before. She always felt a mixture of fear and excitement as they crawled along the narrow sideroad.

There was another car in the family. It was her dad's little red sports car. It only came out in the summer and was for city driving. When he drove to the cottage in it, it stayed parked until Sunday night's drive back to Toronto. He loved that little car. He had even bought a special hat just for wearing when he drove it.

One summer the little red car arrived with another little car behind it. This one was powder blue. It belonged to a business associate named Barb and as she stepped out of the vehicle, she looked long-legged, tanned and blonde. A glamorous, surprise guest.

Jane's mum welcomed Barb and then returned to the kitchen to continue supper preparation while her dad and guest sat down by the lake, drinks in hand.

It was the only time Barb came to the cottage.

Once Jane turned 16 and had her driver's license, she was allowed to drive the family car on her own. Then she could drive into town by herself for ice cream. Just like Barb.

Speeding along the highway far too fast, the car sometimes swerved slightly on the curves but she was fearlessly confident. Perhaps over-confident with the windows down and the radio blaring. It was freedom, motion and independence all wrapped together.

She understood why her dad so loved his little red sports car. And perhaps he also liked to pretend he was someone else when he was driving it. Exciting, unencumbered and a little reckless. Just like Barb.

letters to the editor

Wake up, people!

To the Editor,

Residents of Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes Provincial Riding:

I am writing to those who don't follow politics unless there's an upcoming election and to those who say they're 'not political' and don't even bother to vote. The current provincial government, led by Doug Ford and all his minion Members of Provincial Parliament are counting on you to remain complacent and uninformed. They got a majority in the last election when only 43 per cent of eligible voters voted. That is not reflecting 'the will of the people'.

This current government is a threat to democracy. They have legislated secrecy in order to operate under the radar. They are underfunding and taking over School Boards and colleges. They are quietly privatizing our Public Healthcare by underfunding, then replacing. They have underfunded municipalities and then they take them over, accusing them of 'mismanagement'. They have made corrupt, under-the-table deals with their own financial backers, then hidden the evidence. This government has four criminal investigations now open against them. Is this really a government 'For the People'. Some of them are enriching themselves and family members. They refuse to bargain in good faith with Public Service Unions.

Wake up, people! We need to fight. There are protests happening all across the province. July 25, we will be in Lindsay, at 10 a.m., on the corner of Kent and St. Joseph. Come out and be part of the resistance against the tyranny of the Ford government!

Kathi Douglas ,
Minden Hills

Crosswalk talk

To the Editor,

Thank you for your coverage of the proposed new crosswalk to improve pedestrian safety in Minden.

One of the councillors indicated that nobody has been killed there yet and (to paraphrase the idea) if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

But the two existing Minden crosswalks are broken.

Neither of them has been maintained. Their markings are 95 per cent worn away and have not been repainted. The signage at the roadside says "Courtesy X", a nonstandard sign that could be confusing or missed by drivers. There are no flashing lights to alert drivers to a person intending to cross.

It's not surprising that people walking and shopping on Bobcaygeon Road in downtown Minden look hesitant while using the existing crosswalks.

I would ask councillors to invite some family members to join them to test safety at these crosswalks. Would you feel safe using them with children, or an elderly person?

I hope that the two existing crosswalks can be replaced with a standard pedestrian crosswalk with signage, road markings and lighting that is regularly maintained.

This would support all of the other efforts underway to make downtown Minden a safe and beautiful destination.

Ian Kinross,
Minden Lake

Bring LifeLabs back

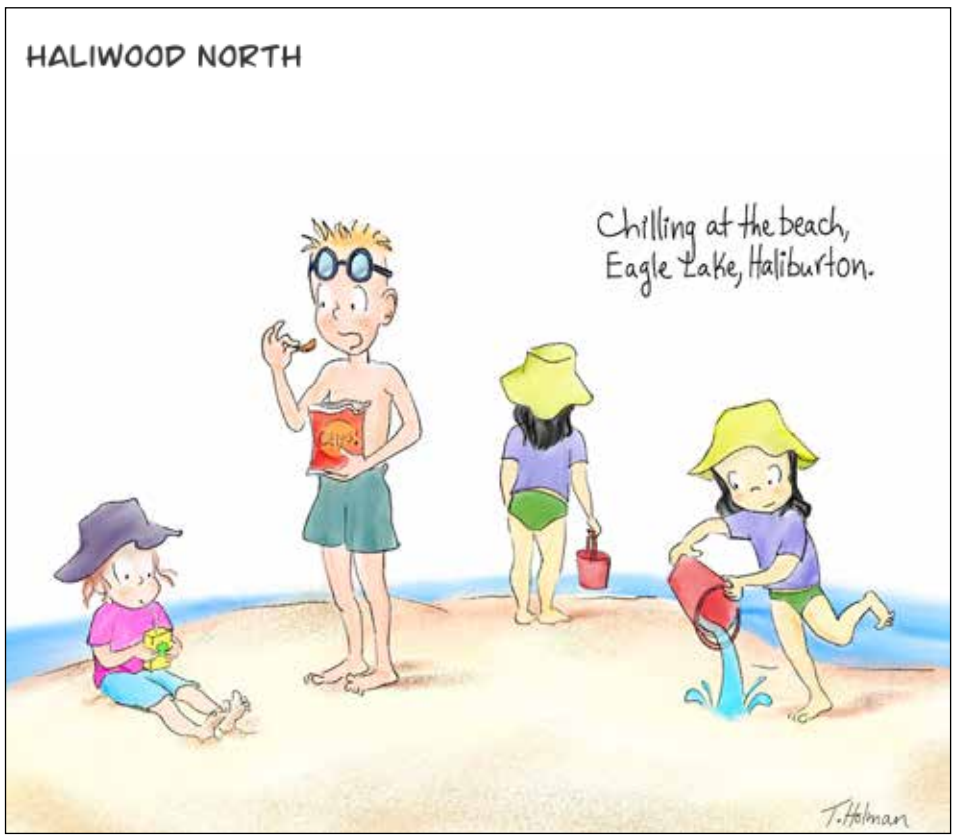
To the Editor,

In response to your article about LifeLabs' future, I have to say that this is not just an inconvenience, it is an emergency! Dysart and the other municipalities in the county need to treat it as such. This is a vital medical building we are talking about, not just LifeLabs. Opening a window is not a permanent solution for the carbon dioxide and TVOC problem in the building.

In terms of LifeLabs' closing in Haliburton, the cost to taxpayers is there already in terms of travel expenses and time. Patients are having to wait weeks in order to get an appointment for blood tests. This means weeks before their doctors can determine what is wrong with their health. Health workers are stressed because folks are having more need for emergency care as a result.

The councils need to address this problem immediately. Doing a few air quality tests, and letting it drag out is not enough. Please get to work and solve this issue!

Shirley Barker,
West Guilford



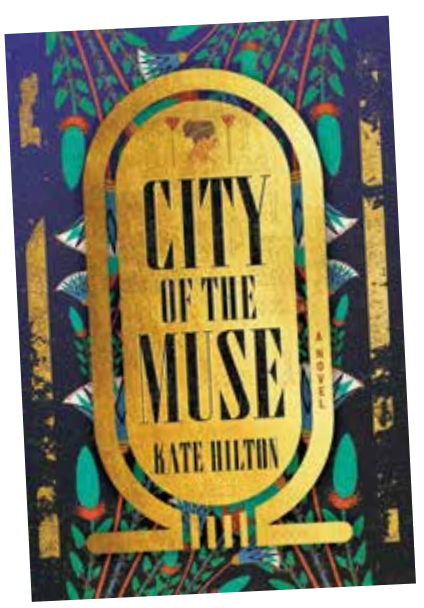
Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

Minden Memories

During the 1930s Depression, the provincial government launched infrastructure projects to create jobs, including the construction of Highway 35 between Miners Bay and Dorset. Eleven camps with bunkhouses and cook houses were built along the route for workers. This photograph, likely showing a cook shack with kitchen staff posing in the doorway, dates to 1932 and comes from the collection of Gladys Wruth. The distinctive spotted pattern on the building was created by nails and washers used to secure the tar paper covering. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



In 1903, renowned papyrologist Helen Gardiner arrives at an excavation in the ancient Egyptian city of Calliopolis to replace a scholar who vanished without explanation. As one of the few women on the dig, Helen soon realizes the expedition is rife with rivalries, hidden agendas, and secrets worth killing for.

More than a century later, Toronto archivist Maddie Sloan is given the chance to investigate a collection of artifacts believed to have come from the same long-lost city. As her research uncovers ties to her own family and a series of unexplained disappearances, the truth behind Calliopolis - and a murder buried for generations - finally begins to emerge.

City of the Muse by Kate Hilton is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

letters to the editor

Pic of the Past; mystery solved

To the editor,
In regards to Pic of the Past from June 23, 2026

Yes the picture is definitely early 1950 or even 1949.

The first house is the Roy Brohm house. He was the reeve for many years. His son Harry lived there also. Daughter now owns it. Country Pickens.

Second is Burke's Restaurant owned by Hugh Burke. There was a small juke box on the wall of each booth. Songs took a nickel as I recall. In the basement was a large furnace. It was warm to go down the wooden stairs to the washroom. Bread was baked in that furnace. It was sold to the public and looked and tasted like homemade bread. It was wrapped in paper and tied with string. My dad would buy two loaves at a time. The grease from the crust would come through the paper.

This restaurant was about the only thing allowed open on a Sunday.

Next was Harold Fairry's pool hall. Large billiard table in the front.

Not sure of the next, but later was TJ Irwin plumbing in the basement. That building burned later.

Then the white stores were Pollard's clothing on the right. Irene was a Brohm and employed brother Harry Brohm in the store for men's wear. Store on left was at one time Dawson's Shoes but also used as insurance office, etc. This Dawson was from Minden.

There was an apartment underneath this store owned by Jack and Irene Pollard. They later moved to the white house on the highway which became Dr. Good's home and office.

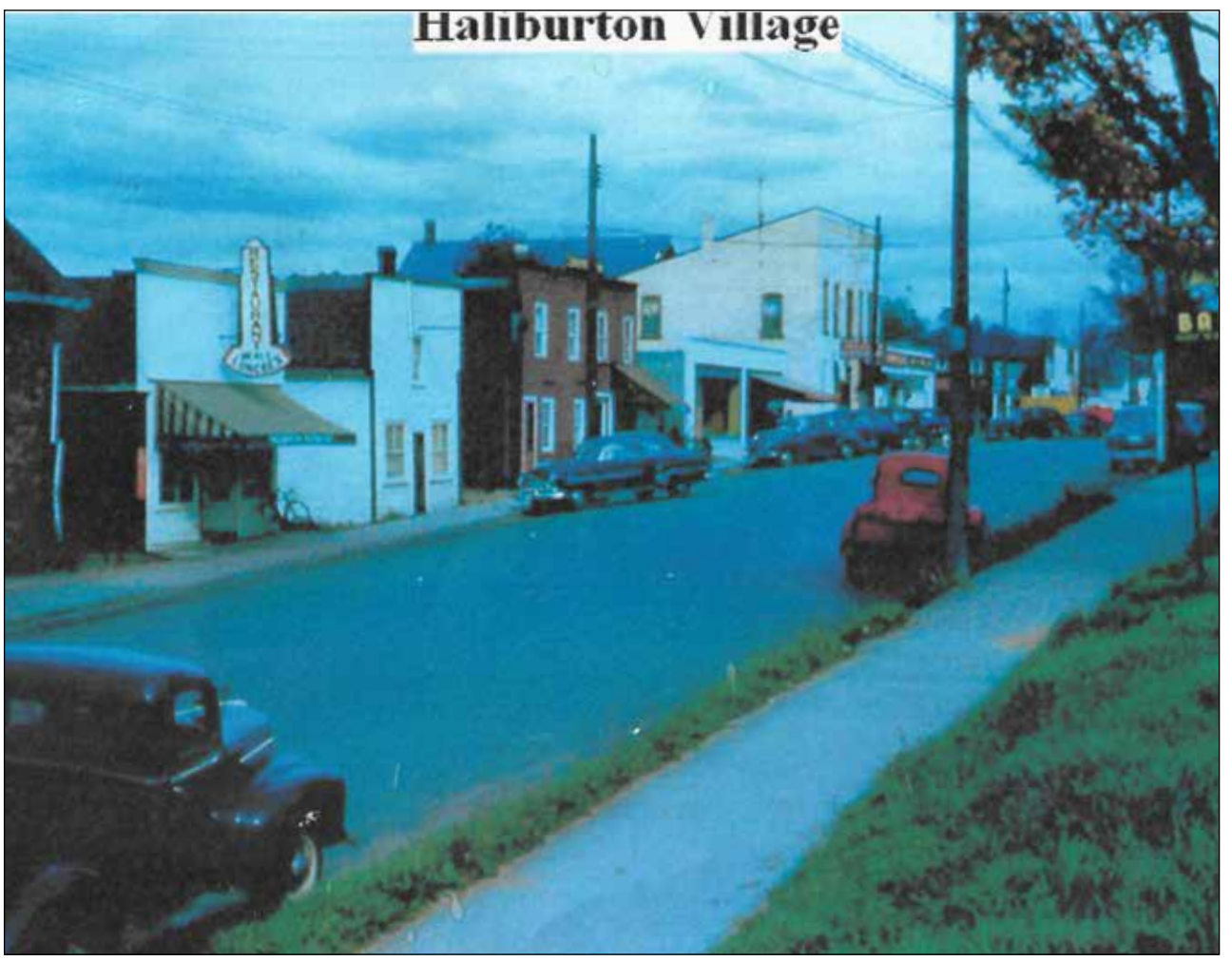
Next is the Highlander Hotel. At one time a restaurant inside on the left side was owned by Dick Clarke. Rotary meetings were held there.

Next is the Bank of Montreal I believe. That was the scene of the big fire and Chief Tom Chambers lost his life in that fire.

Beside the bank was the Dominion Hardware, I believe, owned by Rae. Later by Grant Rae. I am not sure of the time line here.

These memories might help fill in missing pieces for you.

Richard Holland,
Resident from 1948 to 1955,
Drag Lake cottager until 2016



This image was shared by local Jack Brohm, which we added as our Pic of the Past on June 23, 2026. At the time, we put out a call to see if anyone recognized the buildings in the shot so we could update our archives accordingly. Thank you to the many who reached out to share their stories.

Thank you Fishing Derby Sponsors!

The Township of Minden Hills, and the dedicated organizers of the 2026 Canada Day Kids Fishing Derby, would like to thank the following sponsors for their contribution towards this annual event:

Outdoors plus - COHO APPAREL - Highland Fabrication - Haliburtonian Baits - Lisa Mercer RE/MAX - Haliburton Foodland - Cottage Country RV - Haliburton Highlands Fish Hatchery - Highland Eavestroughing and Siding - A.L.L. Glass and Mirror - Andrew Hodgson Real Estate - Minden Equipment Rental - Royal Canadian Legion Minden - Wilbee Contracting - CARQUEST Minden - Paulmac's Pet Food - Chris Little Construction - Decarlo Heating and Cooling - Fielding Estate Winery - Greg Delaney w/ Dagwood Repairs - Petrini Construction - Curtis W. Reid Construction - Randy's Tree Care and Landscaping - Northland Marine and Storage- RJR Industrial Transportation - Haliburton Highlands Bass Club - Canadian Tire Minden - Debler Well Drilling - Hopkins Crane Service & Construction - Minden Sizzler - North Country Movers - Mark Thompson Construction - Tom Prentice & Sons Trucking - Haliburton Mortgage Services - Minden Hills Fire Fighter Association - Jim Allder Real Estate Century 21 - Churko Electric - Hargrave Homes - Cheryl Smith RE/MAX - Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC - Kerrah's Kreations - Ridgewood Ford - Walker's Heating and Cooling Systems - Macklin Electric - Cedar Winds Design Build - Riverview Furniture - Toye Tree Removal - Skycor Locksmithing - Macmillan Golf Center - Minden Lions Club - Cottage Country Paving Ltd. - Kawartha Dairy - Nick Kulas w/ MacEwen Petroleum - Minden Rotary Club - Canoe FM - TD Canada Trust

Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteer organizers who work to make the Fishing Derby a great event!

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

A lifetime of shared love, laughter, and adventure

IVY KATZ
Journalist

When we reflect upon the lives of our elders, often we find their lives were full of connection and adventure.

Jon and Lois Dannewald are a living testimony to this, having recently celebrated 61 years together with friends and family at the Haliburton Legion at the beginning of the month. "You have to have laughter," says Lois, practically in unison with Jon, when asked the age-old question about the secret to a long and happy marriage. "There has to be a mutual respect," said Jon, after thoughtfully pondering the question. "Lots of humour, you've got to laugh or else you'd be crying" he adds with a chuckle.

They launch into an assortment of hilarious stories from their years together. Lois, it seems, is an accomplished prankster, with quite a few April Fool's day pranks under her belt.

"Halloween was a National Holiday in our home with the kids," said Jon, as they recalled huge Halloween parties they used to have with their four sons, extended family, and neighbours.

"With four boys, you learn to be tough!" said Lois, with a twinkle in her eye. Lois grew up as the youngest with five older brothers, "I'm used to having a lot of testosterone in the house!" They have another four grandsons.

To top it all off, Jon and Lois are the proud great-grandparents of 13 great-grand-kids with the 14th on the way, ranging from ages 16 and younger. The family album compiled for their anniversary party shows an array of wonderful family gatherings spread over the decades.

Jon met Lois on the beach near Lake Huron, when he was in the Canadian Air Force, stationed at the Canadian Forces Base in Clinton. After three years, he decided it was not the type of future he envisioned for himself; both Lois and Jon wanted to travel and have the freedom of the open air.

They married and Jon found work at IBM, where he quickly climbed the ladder to a middle-management position with plenty of travel to the United States, "IBM was a person-centred company at the time," reflected Jon.

Locals Lois and Jon Dannewald celebrated 61 years of marriage at the Haliburton Legion with friends in early July. /IVY KATZ staff

While he worked, Lois raised their four boys and worked a variety of flexible jobs, including being a church secretary. Even with travelling, Jon still participated in the community, as a scout leader for twenty years and coaching ladies baseball.

"The ladies baseball team would come to our place for a drink after the game each week," said Lois, "One day, one of our teenage sons looked around and said, "Look at all the girlfriends my parents bring over for me!"

At one point, Lois worked part-time for an insurance company. "I loved to iron," she said, "everyone always knew one of the Dannebald boys by the crease in their pants!" She started an ironing company called The Iron Maiden.

They say that distance makes the heart grow fonder, and whenever Jon came home from a business trip, it was always a celebration.

Two of their adult children have families of their own now, and all four are married. They are scattered between northern Alberta, northern Ontario, British Columbia, and Germany. "That's the way we like it," said Lois. "If we had the great-grand-kids here, it would be a different dynamic, I want to spoil them, not discipline them. This way, whenever we get together as a family, it's always a special celebration." These words of wisdom might be another clue to family harmony. With Jon away on business a lot of the time when the boys were growing up, Lois was the main disciplinarian in the home.

Last year during what would have been their sixtieth anniversary, the Dannewald clan were in British Columbia for the marriage of their 59 year old son. A few years prior, they were in Germany for the wedding of their youngest son. Just last week, a portion of the family was in Haliburton for their sixty-first wedding anniversary.

Jon and Lois are no strangers to the travel bug. "We all have it really bad," said Jon.

At the ripe age of 47 Jon decided to "retire" from his career at IBM. The boys were out of the nest, in post-secondary or beyond. Lois and Jon both took a truck driving course and the following month, bought an eighteen-wheeler truck and travelled through North America, trucking for the next decade plus.

> ***"Lots of humour, you've got to laugh or else you'd be crying ..."***
>
> – Jon Dannewald

In 1999, they hung up their truck-driving keys, sold the family home in their East Gwillimbury suburb, and started RV-ing full-time.

They made their way to the Haliburton Highlands, buying an old church in West Guilford in the year 2000. "We were known as 'the church people'" said Lois, "on Sunday's we would have Bloody Marys with the neighbours, not Hail Marys!"

"We had friends on Halls Lake and were familiar with the area," said Jon on why they chose Haliburton County. "It was an easy decision." The church in West Guilford was their home-base while they went RV-ing for 10 months of the year for the next two decades. "We spent six months a year in Texas, up until Covid, and we never took the same route twice," said Jon. "Well, maybe once or twice," added Lois.

While in Texas from 2000 to 2010, Jon was a publisher, chief reporter, sales manager, and artistic coordinator of a monthly newsletter. "I had two staff, a reporter/editor and sales assistant, " said Jon, noting that Lois was involved as well.

With the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and a cancer-scare, the Dannewald's stopped RV-ing in 2020, but they still take a trip on occasion. There is a solace in knowing their offspring are all healthy and successful, no doubt passing on the entrepreneurial and adventure traits they learned from their parents.

"We try to avoid the city. When you're in paradise, it's not difficult," he said on the decision to settle down in Haliburton Village, where they are involved with the community and were volunteers during the pandemic.

"You have to keep busy, have to keep working on projects," explains Jon. It's possible this is another secret ingredient to a long and satisfying life.

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION
TO PURCHASE ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD
FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: July 28, 2026
TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.
APPLICATION: The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

APPLICANT: Scheffee

LOCATION OF ROAD ALLOWANCE: Civic Address Unassigned
Part of the Road Allowance Between Lots 15 & 16, Concessions 7 & 8, Geographic Township of Guilford, defined as Part 1 on the preliminary plan prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. dated February 13, 2026.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 14th day of July 2026.

Lana McLeaming
Planning Administrative Clerk

Public Notice of Council Vacancy and Special Meeting

At a Special Council Meeting held on July 7th, 2026, Dysart et al Council declared the Deputy Mayor's seat vacant.

Dysart et al Council has chosen to fill this vacancy by appointing a current member of Council to the Mayor's role, until the end of the current Council term on November 14, 2026.

The appointment of the Deputy Mayor will take place at the Regular Council Meeting being held on July 28th, 2026, at 9:00am in the Dysart Council Chambers.

Any current Council member who wishes to be nominated to fill the vacant position of Deputy Mayor is required to notify the Clerk in writing of their consent to nomination at least five (5) business days prior to the July 28th, 2026 Regular Council Meeting.

Contact Information
For inquiries, please contact:
Tamara Wilbee, CAO/Clerk
Phone: (705)457-1740 X-624
Email: twilbee@dysartetal.ca

Born to run

Kennisis Lake Marina welcomed the Bruce Springsteen cover band, Glory Days, to the site this past weekend. "The band's lineup is exclusively composed of experienced concert musicians, able to recreate some of the classic songs and performances that were, and still are, Springsteen's trademark. This is without a doubt one of the best touring acts, one that has a Springsteen look-alike fronting the band," shared the marina's website. The venue will be hosting a number of other live music opportunities over the coming summer weeks.
/TIM YANO staff photographer

Saigon Pho and More: Dwight's very own banh mi pho you

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Wayne and Mia Nguyen of Saigon Pho and More stand with Elizabeth Johnson from Pizza on Earth in Dorset. The restaurant owners recently returned from a trip to Vietnam together, learning about different cuisines. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Good food takes time.

That is exceptionally true for Wayne and Mia Nguyen's Vietnamese inspired cuisine of Saigon Pho and More.

Pho, which rhymes with maw, not with dough, can be described by one word, harmony. The workhorse of the soup is the broth. Using a process that takes many, many hours, beef and bones are simmered into a luxurious broth. Thinly sliced beef, bean sprouts, and rice noodles meet the broth, changing their texture before herbs are added. The result is a harmonious and complex soup that fires your taste buds on all cylinders.

For Mia, opening her own restaurant and sharing the flavours of Vietnam along Highway 35 is a dream come true.

"In Vietnam, we don't have any culinary school at all," said Mia. "If you see someone cook well, you ask them to teach you. If they are okay with that, they teach you for a fee."

In Vietnam, the culinary landscape is a different industry than that of Canada. With the increased population of city centres, hyperfocused food stalls and street vendors is commonplace. Good food is hot and ready at all hours of the day.

"A lot of the time when a restaurant is selling something, they tend to focus on that one thing," said Wayne. "In Vietnam everything is ready for you so early."

Alongside her husband Wayne and their four-year-old son, Lucas, Mia uses her restaurant as a hub of creativity and inventing new dishes for the community of Dwight to try.

"I learned to cook from my mom very young," said Wayne. "Mia is a different story."

Raised in Binh Duong, a Vietnamese province just 40 minutes from Saigon, Mia was drawn to the nation's capital like many young Vietnamese people.

With her background in marketing, Mia came to Canada with the dream to attend culinary school, and immerse herself fully into Western cuisine.

Wayne and Mia met in Barrie, and he encouraged her to follow her culinary dreams. It did not take long for her imagination and natural culinary ability to shine through.

For Mia, Canada brought new cuisine, leaving her craving dishes from her home, especially fresh seafood, pho, and banh mi.

Attending culinary school, Mia learned how seasoning Western cuisine was often simple, with many herbs and seasonings that are not often used in Vietnam.

"Mia is always learning and always exploring," said Wayne.

The program provided Mia with the opportunity to complete a co-op placement.

"If I did not do the program, I would have never met Elizabeth Johnson and I wouldn't be sitting here," said Mia.

Participating in the program, Elizabeth Johnson, founder of Pizza on Earth in Dorset, says that Mia's talents were evident from the first time they met.

"She has a sparkle in her eye and a huge smile," said Johnson. "She rolled up her sleeves and went to work."

Mia brought her imagination to the forefront, having a huge hand in creating their offerings of smoothies that Pizza on Earth continues to serve.

Mia took inspiration (and the recipe) from her uncle, who runs a successful smoothie operation in Vietnam.

Johnson recalls Wayne coming to Dorset to pick Mia up. As a photographer, he took detailed photos of everything she made. It was not only their kindness, but their support of each other that stood out to Johnson.

"She was a real team player, pleasant, and a great team member," said Johnson. "She had a real kindness and an eagerness to learn."

"It was a great experience," said Mia. "It was my first experience in a Western kitchen. In Vietnam, pizza is something that is very expensive."

At Pizza on Earth, Mia had the opportunity to learn how to cook with a wood fired oven, make dough by hand, and learned how to successfully run and manage a restaurant.

All from Johnson and the Pizza on Earth team.

"We are still always talking to each other," said Wayne.

After Mia's co-op ended, Johnson kept in touch with the couple. They visited Dorset every year after. Then, in the fall of 2023, Johnson offered the Nguyens the use of Pizza on Earth during their winter closure.

"I knew Mia and I trusted her completely," said Johnson. "I knew that she would be successful. She has that personality. With Wayne, the two of them together is fantastic."

The Nguyens jumped on the opportunity, going through a series of recipe tastings before their opening on Dec. 15, 2023.

For Johnson, supporting the Nguyens to settle in Dorset is beneficial to everyone. New cuisines bring new flavours, ideas, and dimensions to offerings in the Lake of Bays and Algonquin Highlands area.

For the young family, their son Lucas quickly became a hit entertaining guests that visited their restaurant.

With the success of their temporary winter pop-up, the Nguyens knew that they needed to open their own restaurant in the area.

"In this area, not a lot of people know about pho," said Mia.

"It is hard to convince people to try new things here when they don't know what it is," agreed Wayne.

With hundreds of different types of soups in Vietnam, it was important for the couple to offer pho, the famous Vietnamese soup, alongside Bo Kho, or Vietnamese beef stew. Accompanying the staple dishes, the menu includes banh mi, a sandwich that uses a crispy French baguette that is decorated with pickled vegetables, herbs, and pork.

Cha gio, or Vietnamese spring rolls, are also offered. These are filled with pork, yam, and other yummy vegetables.

For Wayne, a lover of Chinese takeout, he worked with Mia to invent their rice and noodle offerings, which combine fried rice and their own Vietnamese twist.

"After they try our food, we are happy when we have repeat customers," said Mia.

For Mia and Wayne, their menu offers visitors an escape to Saigon, without the price of a flight.

Situated at 25754 Highway 35, Saigon Pho and More is tucked away in an unassuming building. Entering the doors, you are greeted with wondrous spice and flavours.

Connecting to the Highway 60 corridor, Saigon Pho is the perfect stop for tourists, and a hidden gem for those lucky enough to live close by.

Last year at a fundraiser for the Dwight library, Mia offered Johnson to come back to Vietnam with her and Wayne.

"She said yes right away," said Mia.

For Johnson, it was the opportunity of a lifetime to tag along with people that know the language and culture of Vietnam.

A seasoned traveller, Vietnam would be Johnson's first experience in Asia.

"Everything about it was so different than Canada," she said.

From the heat, the smells, to the scenes of the crowds, Johnson says that it was a shock to her system.

For the Nguyens, the trip back home was the opportunity for them to experience tourist sites for the first time in their lives.

One highlight of their trip was visiting Da Lat, a mountainous resort town. With a heavy French influence, they say that the scenery was beautiful, but the food was even better.

For Johnson, another shock was Saigon having everything someone needed at any time of the day. While surrounded by rich tech sectors, they are situated beside those living in impoverished conditions.

For everyone involved, the group trip to Vietnam was something that they will never forget.

Back in Dwight, running a Vietnamese restaurant is no simple task. For an authentic taste and fresh ingredients, Wayne needs to travel frequently to have fresh herbs and mung bean sprouts for their dishes.

Compared to the food stalls in Vietnam, Johnson says that there are many hurdles for a young family to open a restaurant in Lake of Bays.

"The regulations for restaurants are crippling," said Johnson. "Here is a young couple trying to set up their business and they are being told no at every step."

"A lot of the time, what we like and tastes good, we want to share," said Wayne.

A recent addition to their menu is Vietnamese coffee. Using robusta coffee beans, the coffee is strained through a special filter before greeting creamy condensed milk and iced. Shaked to perfection, Mia's Vietnamese coffee is a must-try for a sweet creamy coffee, with an extra strong kick.

"Mia and Wayne are warm, welcoming, friendly, and open," said Johnson. "We are happy to have this young couple in the community."

As a family raising their son in Dwight, the Nguyens hope that their food speaks for itself. Over time, they hope to expand their menu and continue sharing a taste of Vietnam to guests for years to come.

"I really enjoy working with Mia," said Wayne. "She is creative and knows what she is doing."

For Wayne, Mia's dishes reflect her own creative personality.

"I like that he is tall and can reach things on the top shelf," said Mia, with a laugh.

"We should have bought more ladders," said Wayne.

Saigon Pho and More is located in Dwight, a 15 minute drive from Dorset. They are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. With all the work that goes into their food, it is highly recommended to order ahead by calling 705-388-2345.

After all, no one is better at bringing you to Vietnam than Mia and Wayne.

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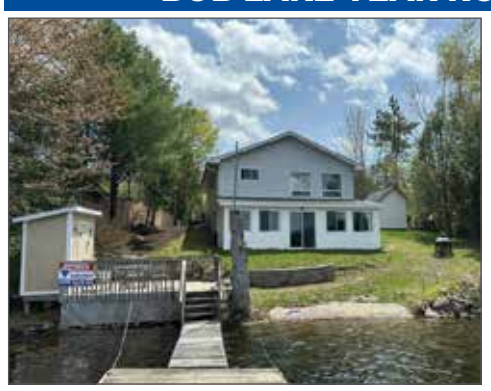

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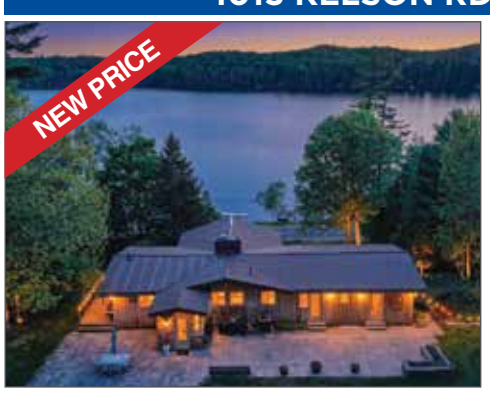

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MVPs

With the oppressive heat of the previous week finally broken, Haliburton's Grassroots Soccer league continued its forward momentum this past week. More than 250 enthusiastic kids hit the local fields, ready for another fantastic round of brilliant soccer and friendly competition. /photos submitted

Bennett N. Boys Blue 7-9

Phoenix Darling. Girls Yellow 7-9

Kora Reid. Girls Yellow 10-13

Adaline Moore. Girls White 4-6

Jack Elliot (Green) and Griffan Hunt (Purple) Boys 12-13

Ivy Fletcher. Teal Tigers MVP Girls 7-9

Tessa Cosburn. Girls Red 4-6

Kendrick Enughu. Boys Black 10-11

June Judson. Girls Pink 10-13

Stanley Brown. Boys Grey 7-9

MVPs

Abigail Meller. Girls Yellow 10-13

Aro Brown. Boys Red 4-6

Ava Jones. Girls Solar Yellow 7-8

While the dedicated volunteer coaches worked hard on the pitches to keep the young athletes motivated, focused, and organized, the parents on the sidelines did their part by keeping the encouraging shouts and refreshing water bottles in full supply. Overall, the cooler, crisp weather provided the perfect backdrop for another memorable week of exciting gameplay and great sportsmanship on the pitch. /photos submitted

Carter Ouellette. Girls Pink 10-13

Dominic Dart, MVP

Ella Sperrino. Teal Tigers MVP 7-9

Jesse L. Boys Green 7-9

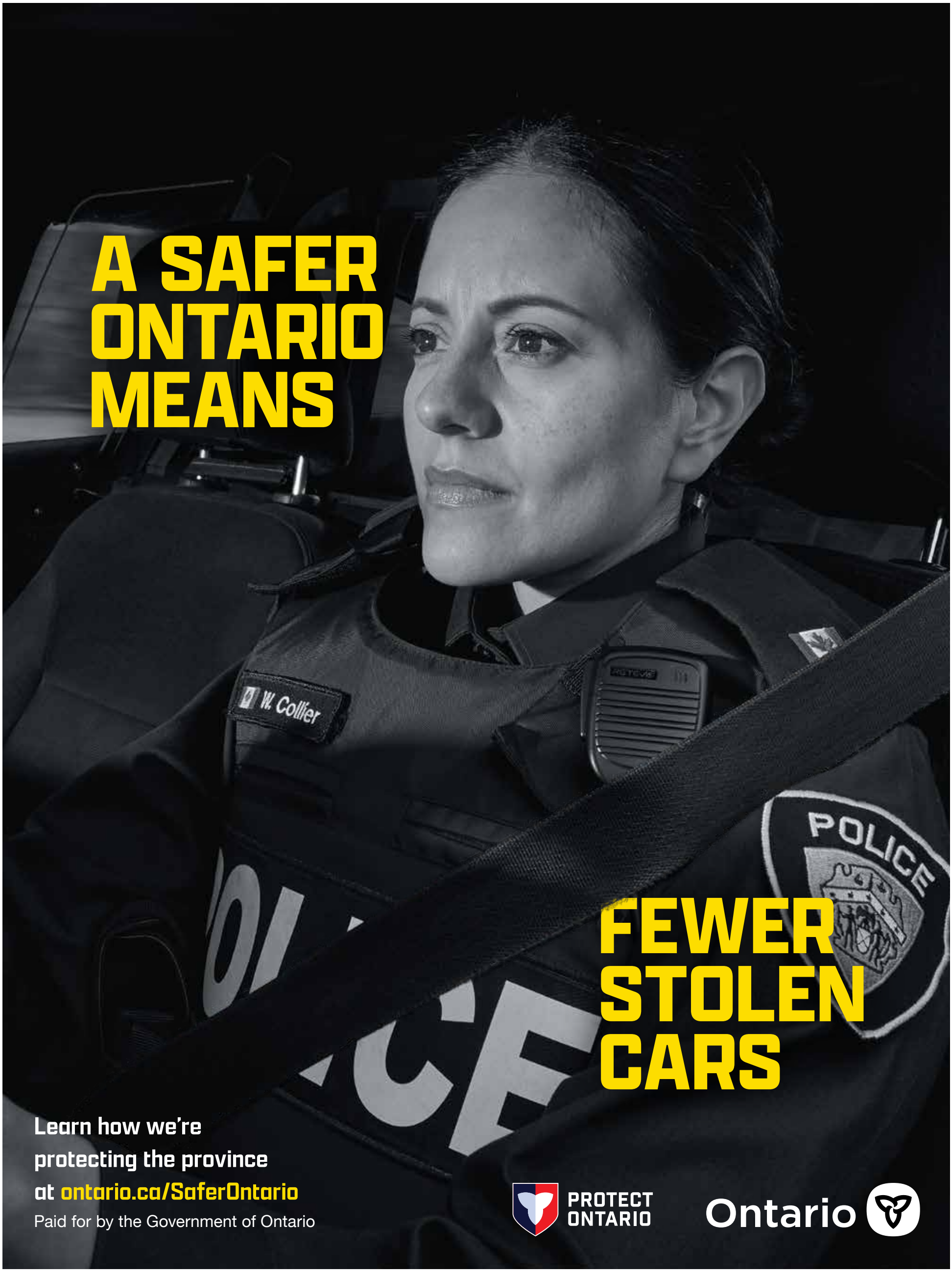
Julian Mardus. Boys Green 12-13

Kieran Ware. Boys Purple 12-13

Sawyer Mills. Boys Grey 7-9

Wells Brown. Boys Orange 7-9

Wesley C. Boys Blue 10-11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Deputy mayor position open

from page 1

to provide notice by June 30 at noon through the clerk," she explained. "At the deadline, only one submission has been received from Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie."

This act will have a domino effect, resulting in the deputy mayor position now sitting vacant.

As was the protocol for appointing a mayor, the deputy mayor position could be filled by either appointing a current member of council to the role, appointing a previous candidate from a past election, or putting out an open call for applications from the public.

Due to the fact that McKechnie was acclaimed in the 2022 election, there is no previous candidate eligible for the role.

"As with the process for the mayor's vacancy, public notice will be provided online and in the local newspapers," said Wilbee. "Members of the public are not able to make delegations on this subject matter, but they are able to submit correspondence which will be attached to the agenda."

If there are current members of council interested in the deputy mayor's seat, they are required to notify the clerk in writing by July 21. At the upcoming July 28 meeting, council will review all submitted correspondence, and each candidate will have five minutes to address council. At this point, council members may ask each candidate one question, but opposing candidates are not permitted to ask questions to each other.

Votes for the position will be taken with a show of hands.

In terms of next steps, once it is known which council seat could be vacated by the deputy mayor appointment, the process could start again. "As the vacancy will be declared within 90 days of election day, council does not have to fill the vacancy," explained Wilbee. "If council does wish to fill the remaining seat, the options provided in policy mirror the steps taken for both the mayor and deputy mayor seat, being to appoint a person from the previous election who ran in that ward or seek general applications."

Wilbee noted that when the last vacancy is declared on July 28, there will only be three regular meetings of council left in the term. "The general application process will require significant time, and put filling the

Walt McKechnie has taken on the role of Dysart's mayor for the remainder of the term. /FILE

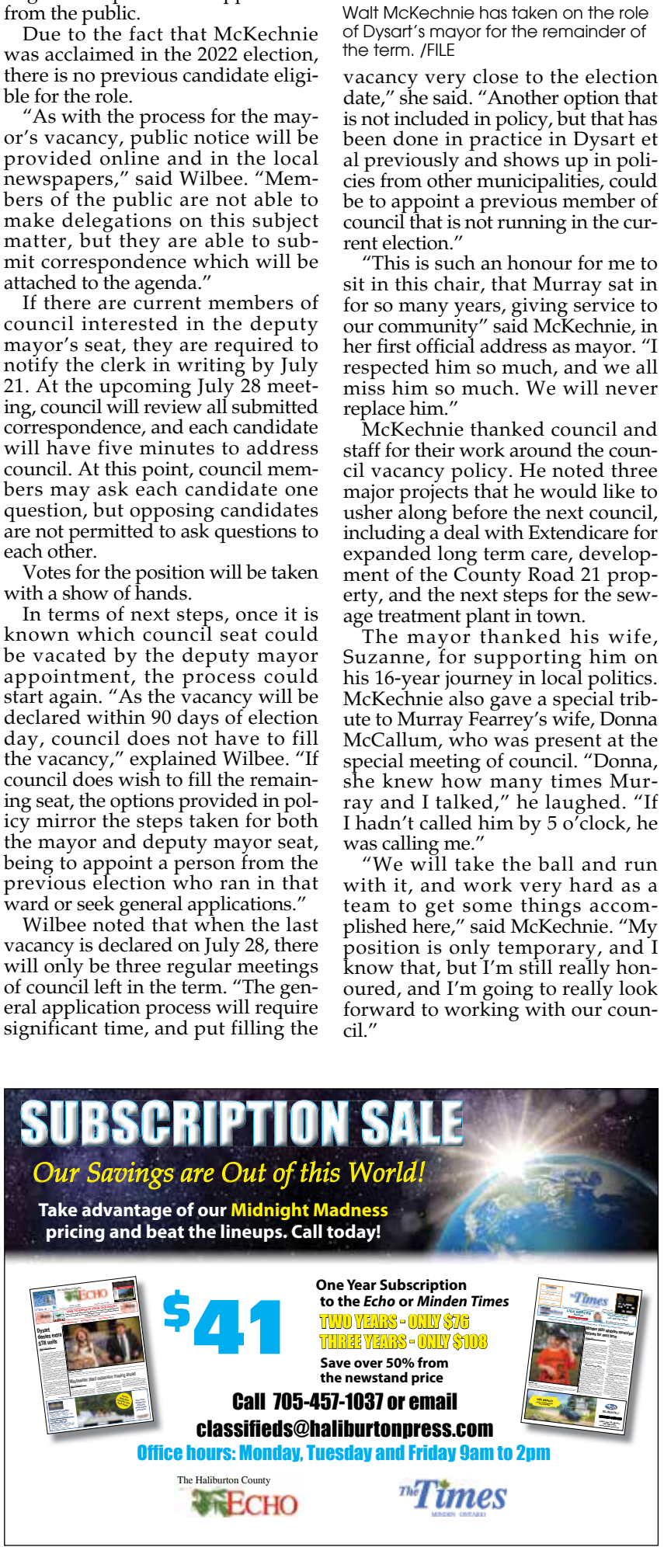
vacancy very close to the election date," she said. "Another option that is not included in policy, but that has been done in practice in Dysart et al previously and shows up in policies from other municipalities, could be to appoint a previous member of council that is not running in the current election."

"This is such an honour for me to sit in this chair, that Murray sat in for so many years, giving service to our community" said McKechnie, in her first official address as mayor. "I respected him so much, and we all miss him so much. We will never replace him."

McKechnie thanked council and staff for their work around the council vacancy policy. He noted three major projects that he would like to usher along before the next council, including a deal with Extendicare for expanded long term care, development of the County Road 21 property, and the next steps for the sewage treatment plant in town.

The mayor thanked his wife, Suzanne, for supporting him on his 16-year journey in local politics. McKechnie also gave a special tribute to Murray Fearrey's wife, Donna McCallum, who was present at the special meeting of council. "Donna, she knew how many times Murray and I talked," he laughed. "If I hadn't called him by 5 o'clock, he was calling me."

"We will take the ball and run with it, and work very hard as a team to get some things accomplished here," said McKechnie. "My position is only temporary, and I know that, but I'm still really honoured, and I'm going to really look forward to working with our council."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A community within a community at Killara Station

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Founding owner and operator of Paws and Fresh at Killara Station Susan Peel stands on the grounds. /IVY KATZ staff

Australian Koolie pups from Canadian Cobar Coolies at Killara Station. /submitted

Newly working in tandem with NewTown Microgreens, Susan Peel, founding owner and operator of Paws and Fresh at Killara Station is no stranger to traditional organic farming and dog-rearing.

Peel spent twenty years in Australia, running a successful pet accessory business and learning traditional farming techniques, before returning to her hometown of Haliburton in 2009.

She had started collecting Koolies in 2006, knowing she was going to breed them. Peel returned to Canada with five Australian Koolies - a native Australian dog-breed - in tow and became one of only two breeders in North America in 2009.

It was in Australia that Peel fell in love with the Koolie dog breed. "Koolies are the oldest breed in Australia, but they were only officially named in the year 2000," explained Peel. "The Australian farmers bred them because they wanted an all around good farm dog; a Koolie has an 'off-switch' at the end of the day, unlike a traditional herding dog."

Peel had been working in the pet industry since 11-years-old and knew many aspects of the dog world, including: grooming, training, vet hospitals, and the wholesale manufacturing of pet accessories.

When Peel returned from Australia, she worked with Adele Barry at Highland Dog Grooming, and she noticed there was a dire need for dog boarding, daycare, and training at the time. "Paws at Killara Station was born out of that need in 2013, and I was lucky enough to have the support of locals including, Anne Knight," said Peel. "We expanded from there."

The word 'killara' is Aboriginal Australian for 'permanent' and a farm is referred to as a 'station' in Australia, explained Peel on the origin of her homestead's name.

Peel still breeds the Koolies to this day. She is a registered Koolie breeder with the Australian Koolie Association. "I have sold puppies all over the world; Germany, Holland, Japan, the U.S.A.," said Peel, with her company Canadian Cobar Coolies.

Until recently, for the last 13 years, Peel has also been acting as a pound and dog rescue. She is now getting the support of Algonquin Highlands council.

"To run Paws Pound with the support of council is wonderful," she said. This means that Peel is no longer out of pocket and dog bylaws can be enforced when owners do not want to pay up.

Dysart et al and Minden Hills councils are fine tuning the contract with Peel for Paws Pound. At this time, Peel encourages people who are surrendering their dogs to contact Snowflake Meadows, also located in Minden.

Well-rounded like the community it serves

Peel's Killara Station has a little bit of everything, and employs local people who have a deep passion and knowledge in what they do. Two main factions at Killara Station are Paws and Fresh.

Paws at Killara is focused on dogs, for long and short-term stay boarding, doggie day care, pack walks, and grooming. "I used to groom, so I am very particular about it," says Peel. "The groomer we have is phenomenal."

Obedience and dog agility classes are offered with Joanne George, whose animal therapy work with blind dogs was memorialised with the Smiley the Dog statue in Stouffville, Ontario.

Stacey Shaw, a founding member of the Sporting Detection Dog Association and registered instructor, offers scent detection classes. "Something that is very popular is training the dogs to find shedded antlers," said Peel. "People can train their dogs to find t-shirts, toys, you name it."

Denise Wolm of the Highland's Equestrian Circuit runs the equestrian program, offering riding lessons, trail rides, and the popular pony club. While local coffee roaster, Rebel Elixer, roasts their beans at Killara Station.

Aussie water-conservation techniques at Fresh

Farming has always been a passion, says Peel. She uses traditional and sustainable organic farming techniques, many of which she perfected in the Australian climate and under their rigid water-conservation laws.

"I'm big on water conservation and using water efficiently. I'm a heavy weeder, I don't use any chemicals. We use an Australian lasagna-type style of building a bed and heavy mulching," she said.

Volunteers are always welcome, said Peel, to help weed, mulch, and harvest the garden on Mondays to Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "At the end of their day, volunteers can take from the garden what they feel their labour was worth," she said.

Fresh at Killara is a great opportunity for people to learn about sustainable techniques. Guests will notice an array of 200 free-range, pasture-raised heritage hens in a large area, they eat a non-GMO organic diet, and their colourful eggs are available from an honour fridge. Sustainably raised meat birds will be available starting July 16. Fresh greens, picked directly from the gardens the day of, can be ordered for pickup. Contact info@killarastation.ca or call 705-854-0055 and follow their socials on Facebook for regular updates.

Peel is excited about her recent endeavour with local business NewTown Microgreens. "Micro greens are super condensed with antioxidants and minerals like magnesium and potassium," said Peel. She grows them in high-quality soil, not hydroponically. This winter, she plans on growing micro-green herbs. Peel offers farm tours for groups up to ten.

Never one to slow down, Peel has recently started a mushroom forest. "We'll see how it goes," she said. "Hopefully the first mushrooms will be ready in late summer or September, definitely by next spring. After we might try doing them indoors over the winter." Peel mirrors her farm; lively and dynamic, always striving to perfect her craft.

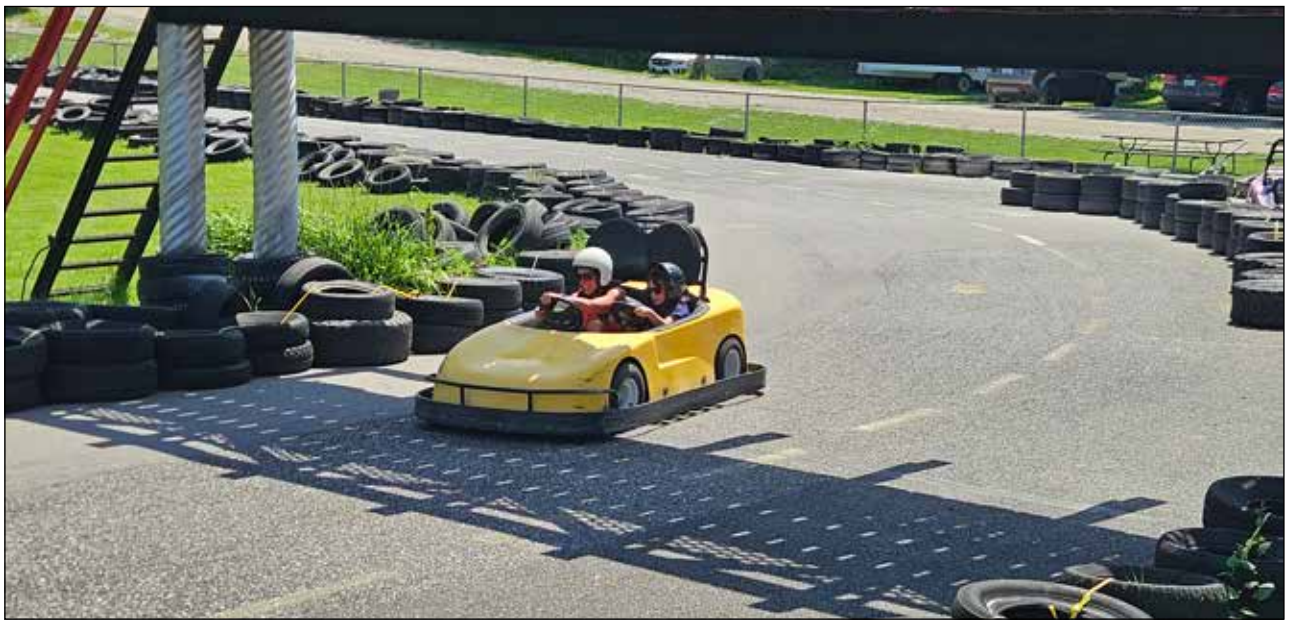
In the organic gardens at Killara Station is walking onion, also known as a perpetual onion, is unique because it self-plants. /IVY KATZ staff

Organic heritage hens live and roam free on the pasture.

The Minden Experience seeks to pass the torch

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist



The well-known Minden Experience is looking to sell the business, hoping to pass the torch to someone eager to see the popular destination succeed in the future. /THOMAS SMITH staff

For The Minden Experience owners John and Alisa Dermott, it is time to pass the torch.

Originally from the Niagara area, John and Alisa were regulars of the go-kart track, stopping by on the way to their cottage.

"We knew we wanted to move up here and semi-retire," said Alisa.

Moving to Haliburton County full-time was a dream come true for the couple.

It was not until after this relocation that they learned that the go-kart track and amusement park in Minden was for sale. They officially purchased the business in 2019.

"It barely had a heartbeat," said John. "We brought it back."

Many customers were under the impression that the business was closed.

After acquiring the business, the couple's first priority was assuring the local community that they were open and committed to visitors; establishing themselves a must-see destination.

A year later, the COVID-19 pandemic began. While many businesses struggled during this time, the lockdowns were a windfall for their newly rebranded Minden Experience.

With all of their offerings being outside, minor changes to their business were made to abide by safety precautions, letting them continue their operations.

As the new operators to an increasingly successful business, John and Alisa made changes to refresh the amusement park. These included a new coat of paint, new sign along Highway 35, widening of the go-kart track, and new go-karts to accommodate more riders.

To expand their reach, Alisa has advertised the business in newspapers, magazines, and through their social media pages.

Above all of those methods, their hospitality and reputation speaks for itself, spreading by word of mouth.

"It is a family tradition here now," said John. "That is what really touches our hearts. The interaction with the families, especially the ones that make the drive from far, they always leave smiling and happy."

"Many cars will make the drive from Toronto and spend the day," said Alisa.

Visiting the go-kart site is a tradition that has continued for families over 50 years. In appreciation of the business, many visitors bring photos and share their memories with the couple.

"We have had a lot of customers come over the years and bring us photos or show us photos of what the track used to be 50 years ago," said Alisa. "They didn't wear helmets, there were no tires around the track. It is pretty cool to see."

"That is the best part of this business: the families," said John.

Behind the register, a large board shows race times and identifiers for racers. This identifies when racers are on the track and who is racing. Seeing your name on the board makes you feel a part of the go-kart track's history itself.

"It is the enjoyment that you get seeing the families and first time drivers," said John. "We always have the tunes going."

A big part of the business is facilitating large groups like parties and campers. Every camper group brings over 40 kids. With their event space on the property, the couple says that they have no problems in facilitating large groups of kids.

For Alisa, one of her favourite recent memories of operating The Minden Experience is a group of campers that requested she be in a group photo with them.

"They had so much fun. Then they wanted a picture," said Alisa. "They started chanting my name and then they wanted me in a picture with them. That is a special memory."

John and Alisa have decided to put The Minden Experience for sale. Not just a successful business, the property is zoned for commercial usage and hosts batting cages, a go-kart track, mini golf course, chipping range, and nature trails.

The couple says that the possibilities with the property are endless.

For the next owner, it is simply up to their imagination to expand what has already been implemented.

The property comes with a residential home and a two acre lot across the road that houses the garage, storage facilities, and washrooms. With an ample amount of property, the couple says that there is opportunity to offer skating or tobogganing in the winter and operate the business throughout the shoulder seasons.

"There has not been a kid that has come here and not loved this place," said Alisa.

For the future owners, the couple says that they would be willing to stay and assist with the transition; learning the ins and outs of the business. There is also the potential for the property to be developed into additional housing.

"Do what you love and love what you do," said Alisa. "You cannot help but love what you do."

Unlike their go-karts, the Dermotts are in no rush.

The Minden Experience is located at 1063 Ravine Road in Minden, look for the iconic sign along Highway 35.

"In the meantime, it is business as usual," assures Alisa. "We will be here until we sell it."

The Welkin comes to Haliburton Museum

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

From left, Gwen Atkinson as Sarah Smith, Catherine Andress as Judith Brewer, April Kovacs as Hannah Rusted, Ella Leis Nicholson as Sally Poppy, Robyn Nicholson as Kitty Givens, and Lindsay Jowett as Ann Lavender pose for a photo for the upcoming production of *The Welkin* by Ctrl-Art-Del. /Photo by Danielle Meredith Photography

A new play is set for the stage in August by local theatre company Ctrl-Art-Del.

The Welkin by Lucy Kirkwood is a courtroom drama set in rural England, 1759. A woman named Sally Poppy, is found guilty of murder and set to hang. After she claims that she is pregnant. It is up to 12 women to decide her fate in court. Outside the court, a mob is demanding blood. With the women coming from different statuses, ages, and classes, their shared stories and experience shape not only themselves, but Poppy's future.

"It is dark and gritty and really grapples with things that are going on politically right now," said Ella Leis, production manager for Ctrl-Art-Del. "I can see these women in Haliburton County, I know women who share the same stories."

While the show is recommended for an audience over the age of 16 with mature themes, the dark themes are contrasted by witty humour.

With a large cast of characters, all ages and backgrounds will be represented in the show.

"The characters they are taking on are influenced by their experience in real life," said co-director Christine Carr. "We have very much adapted the show to our actors. That way, it is a very unique production."

For the production, the show will be put on in the upper area of the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Using real artifacts from the time period, the museum provides a uniquely immersive seating arrangement. Due to this nature, there are limited seats available.

For Leis and Carr, *The Welkin* is now more topical than ever before.

"It is what it is like to be female presenting in society at this moment," said Leis. "We are watching laws actively restricting women's freedoms coming up through the States. We are watching more and more of that sentiment develop in Canada as well."

In Feb. 2025, ethical concerns arose when the state of Georgia forced a pregnant woman to continue to be on life support as it would be against the state's anti-abortion laws. The woman was braindead and has spurred discussions on ethics around bodily autonomy.

"Many of the women in the cast of this show will have been impacted by many of the things their characters are impacted by," said Leis.

The Welkin is a play for those to see themselves represented on stage.

For Carr, she feels the experiences of the characters are what many women experience. With issues like sexual assault and violence often going undiscussed, she says that there is strength in community.

When leaving the show, they hope that viewers are left thinking on how to be an advocate for change.

"It examines our responses as women against exterior forces against our bodies," said Carr.

The Welkin will be Ctrl-Art-Del's largest cast with 18 members. It is also co-directed by Hannah Klose.

Tickets for *The Welkin* are available through ctrlartdel.ca and are $25 or $10 for students. The show will be running from Aug. 6 to 8 and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

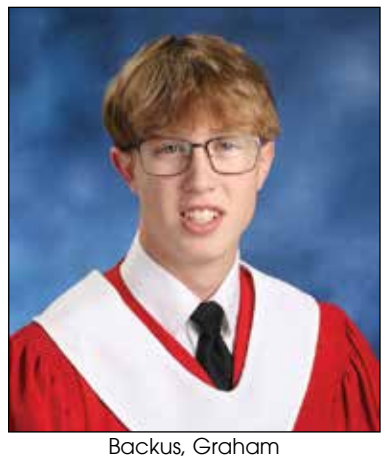
"It is an opportunity for women in the community to not feel alone and see themselves on stage," said Carr. "In a world full of negative news, it is important to see that in the community, and know that you are not alone."

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Graduates

Alden, Keira

Allder, Grace

Backus, Evan


Backus, Graham

Bain, Rilynn

Bain-Gross, Trevin

Berry, Adria

Bird, Erik

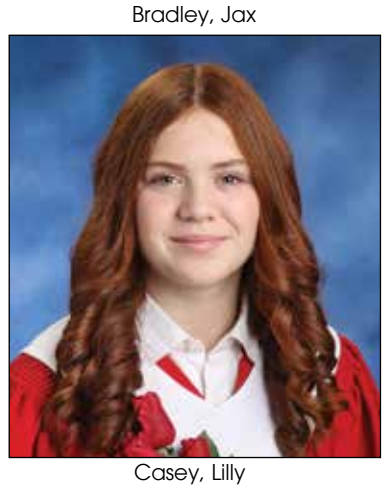
Bradley, Jax

Brodhagen, Michael

Brosseau, Paige

Brown, Emily

Byrnes, Tory


Casey, Lilly

Chumbley, Mark

Chumbley, Matthew

Code, Ava

Daniels, Peyton

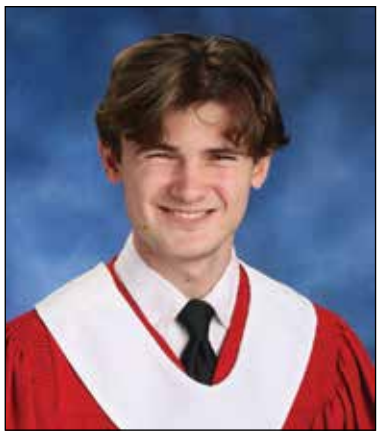
Davis, Jacob

Dennis, Ralph

Class of 2026

Dovell, Matthew

Durepos, Ethan


Duszak, Nicholas

Dykes, Lochlin

English, J.T.

Evans-Fockler, Sadie

Gallant, Lara

Gervais, Ella

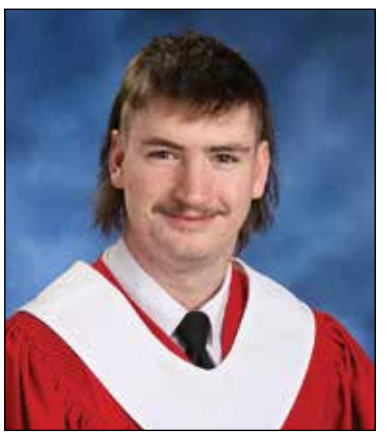
Graham, Kenzie

Gruppe, Olivia

Hall, Danica

Hall, Marisol

Harris, Tavia


Harrison, Liam

Harriss, Ryerson

Hearn, Alexis

Horner-Xerri, Isabelle

Howard, Keira

Hullah, Ethan

Hulme, Patrick

MINDEN

SUBARU

13061 Hwy 35
Minden, ON
705-286-6126

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Graduates

Humphries, Violet

Hutchinson, Lundyn

Ianovskaia, Viliya

Jennings, Jordanna

Johnston, Brechin

Jones, Carson

Jones, Evan

Jones, Hazel

Joseph, Jedaiah

Kainellos, Leland

Kaytar, Delilah

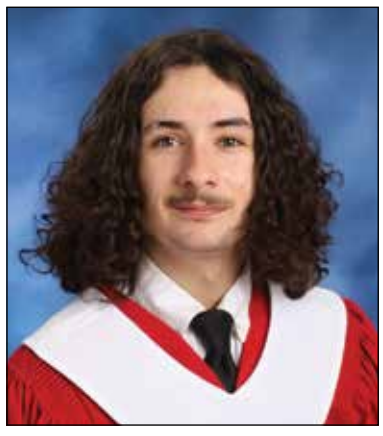
Kelly, Rozlyn

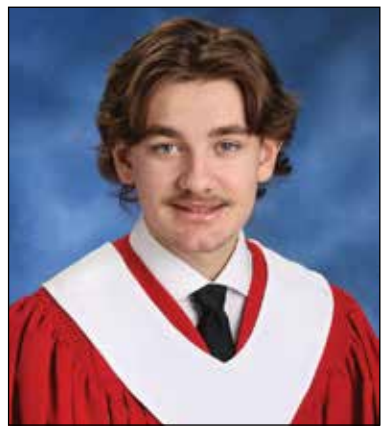
King, Ryan

Korpela, Kendra

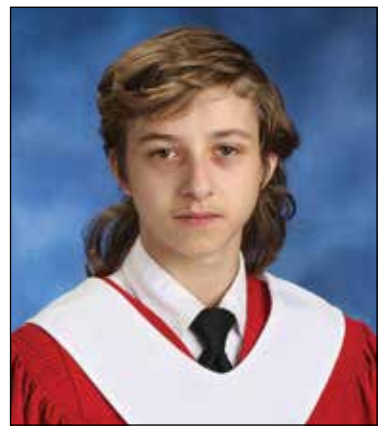
Lafleur, Rosie

Latanville, Austin

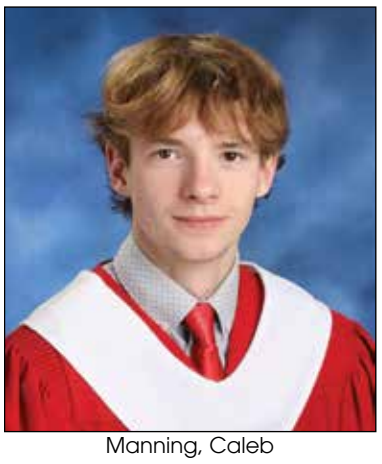

Lilly, Johnny


Lloyd, Jacob

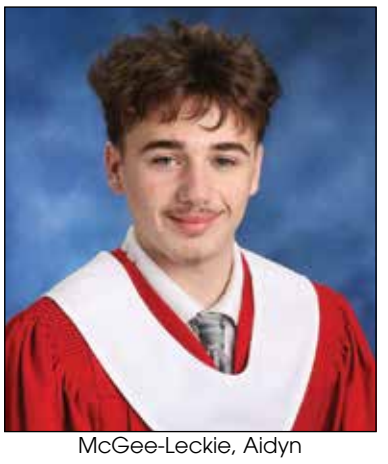
Lowe, Don


MacKay, Austin

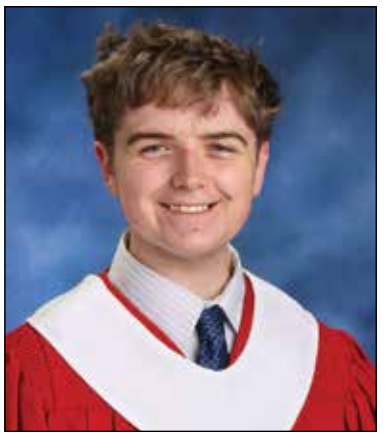
Class of 2026


Manning, Caleb

Mathew, Elizabeth

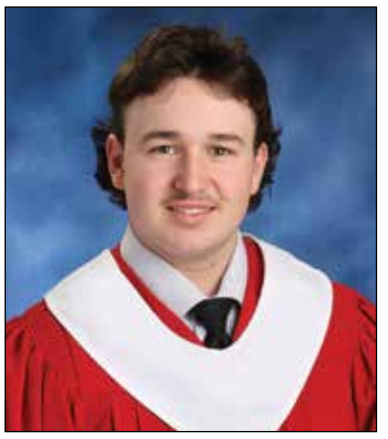

McGee-Leckie, Aidyn

McMahon, Benjamin


Medlar, Bryant

Megrah-Poppe, Owen

Miller-Anderson, Ryan


Mills, Jace

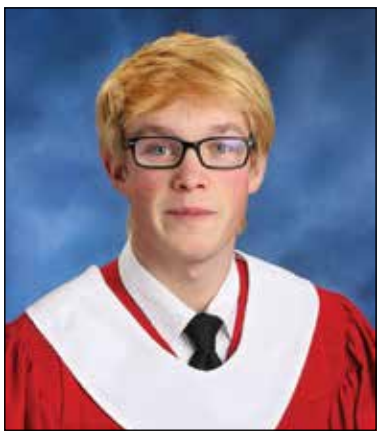
Mitchell, Braedan

Mitchell, Carter

Morrison, Ruby

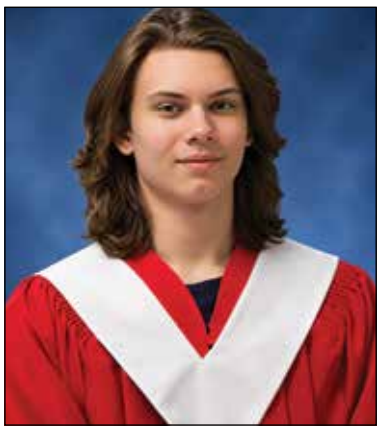
Moshenko, Magnum

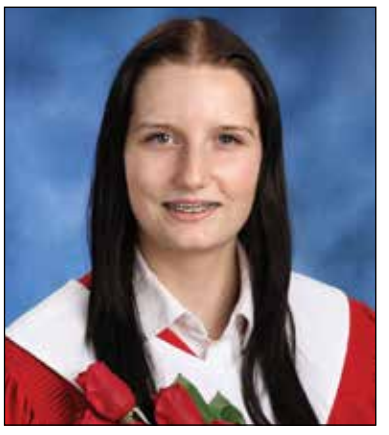
Mould, Megan


Mowatt, William

Neimann-Rowe, Freyja

Newhook, Shayla


Nienajadlo, Adrian


Oates, Mikayla

Paradie, Chloe

Porter, Devon

castle building centres

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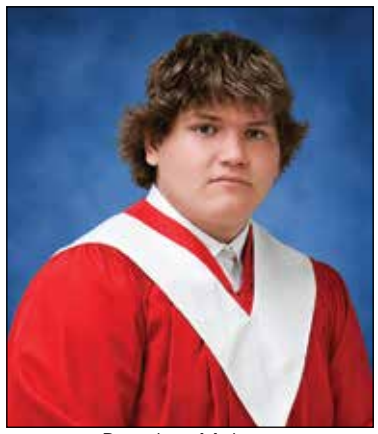
Haliburton County Home Builders Association

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Graduates

Ram, Silas

Robichaud, Brian

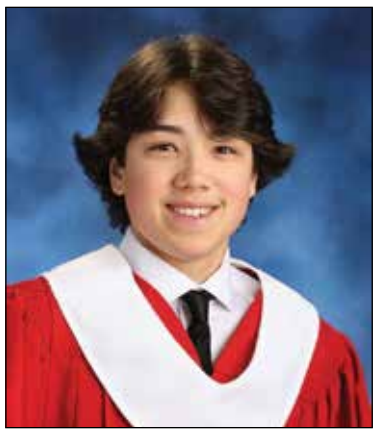
Robinson, Layne


Rowden, Mclean

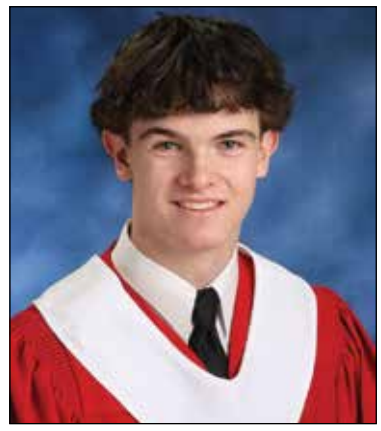
Rupnow, Ty

Scheffee, Josh

Simms, Parker


Sisco, Carter

Sisson, Owen


Smith, Trevor

Somers, Payton

Steffensen, Sydney

Stewart, Naven

Storey, Brayden

Taylor-Bayly, Finn

Thompson, Mason

Turner, Clarke

Upton, Jennifer

Vaillancourt, Frankie

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Class of 2026

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Walker, Maddy

Waugh, Cameron

Wesley, Aurora

Whitteker, Owen

Wimperly, Wyatt

Winder, Chase

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MPP Laurie Scott Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock

Congratulations Class of 2026!

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Email: laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org
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2026

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Municipality of Dysart et al

In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Description of Lands:
1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000
Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000
Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08

3. ~~Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20~~
~~According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000~~
~~**Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90**~~

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000
Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser. A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart,
Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde
135 Maple Avenue
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext 639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca www.dysartetal.ca

Investigation leads to seizure of drugs and one arrest

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged one individual with trafficking drugs in the Haliburton Highlands area.

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment, with assistance from the Central Region Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), began a lengthy investigation into reports of drug trafficking in the Minden and Haliburton area.

On Wednesday, July 8, 2026, officers located and arrested a 40-year-old of Haliburton, and charged him with these following offences:

- Possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - three counts
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under $5,000
- Drive vehicle or boat with cannabis in open baggage
- Possession of over 30 grams dried cannabis in a public place

During this investigation, officers recovered and seized:

- Two cellular devices
- Digital scales
- 70 grams of cannabis
- 30.5 grams of crystal meth
- 30.8 grams of cocaine
- Nine Percocet pills
- $195 Canadian currency

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date.

If you have any information about the trafficking of illicit substances in Haliburton County, please call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or should you wish to remain anonymous, you can call the Kawartha/Haliburton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or go online at www.khcrimestoppers.com where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to $2,000.

Submitted

Twenty years, one location, endless creativity

For the first time in its 20-year history, the Tour de Forest is taking a bold new direction. Instead of travelling from studio to studio, visitors are invited to experience 23 artists in one convenient, indoor, air-conditioned location - making this milestone anniversary celebration easier, more accessible, and more inspiring than ever.

Join us at the Tour de Forest 20th Anniversary Show & Sale at the Haliburton Legion (Branch 129), 719 Mountain Street, Haliburton (across from the arena on Highway 118) during the Civic Holiday weekend.

Opening Preview: Friday, July 31, 4 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 1: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (drop by on your way to Midnight Madness)

Sunday, August 2: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Browse a remarkable collection of original artwork while meeting the artists in their individual booths. Twenty years of creativity come together under one roof, bringing together current Tour de Forest members, welcoming back returning artists, and introducing talented newcomers Michael and Susan Butz and Wayne Hooks. This unique anniversary format gives visitors the rare opportunity to explore every artist's work, compare styles, and meet each artist during a single visit.

From painting and pottery to wood, glass, fibre, jewellery, photography, sculpture, mixed media, and more, the Tour de Forest's 20th Anniversary Show & Sale is a celebration of creativity, individuality, and community. Whether you're a longtime supporter or discovering the Tour de Forest for the first time, this special anniversary event offers an unforgettable artistic experience.

Come celebrate 20 years of creativity - and discover why this year's Tour de Forest is unlike any before.

Visit www.haliburtontourdeforest.com for more information.

Free admission. Everyone is welcome. Come celebrate with us!

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Haliburton Village Condo For Rent. 4 Lake Ave. Beautiful two bedroom, two bathroom top floor corner unit providing stunning views of Head Lake. 5 minute walk to the waterfront and town amenities. Open concept floor plan. One underground parking space and storage locker. Freshly painted and furnished. Includes radiant heat, hydro, water. $3,200/month. Contact **705-455-7568** or email **roxboroughdan@gmail.com**

Fitness Room for rent: Blue Sky Yoga Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright & Open in Downtown Haliburton with Private entrance and washroom. **Health Professional/ Therapist treatment room for rent** at Haliburton Chiropractic. Furnished with massage table, desk & chair. Available by the hour, half or full day. **Contact: 705 457 3500. info@haliburtonchiropractic.com**

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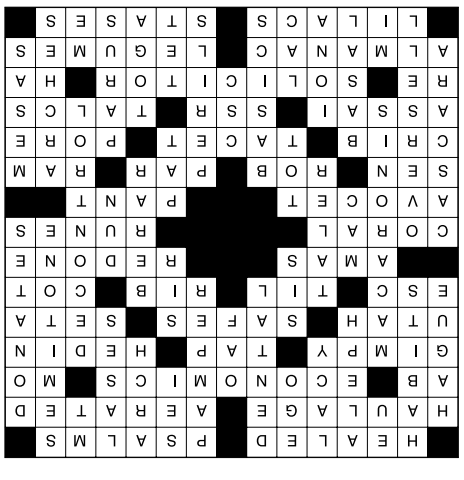
3	9	5	7	4	8	6	1	2
8	2	7	1	3	6	5	4	9
1	3	6	4	8	7	9	2	5
4	7	9	3	2	5	1	6	8
5	8	2	9	6	1	7	3	4
2	5	8	6	1	4	3	9	7
7	4	1	8	9	3	2	5	6
9	6	3	5	7	2	4	8	1

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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COMING EVENTS

SIRCH community services

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
5 p.m.
SIRCH will be hosting its AGM at the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Avenue, Haliburton. The meeting agenda will include the Reports from Staff, Auditor's Report and Election of Directors. Members of the public are invited to attend. Please contact us for more information.
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Email: info@sirch.on.ca

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OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Donald Lawrence Dittrick

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Donald Lawrence Dittrick on Friday, June 26, 2026, in Kinmount, Ont.

Donald passed away peacefully in his home at the wonderful age of 83. He was a hard worker, dedicated skilled trandsman, loving father, Husband and friend.

Don was the beloved husband of the late Elaine Dittrick. He was the loving father of Trevor Dittrick and Anitra Dittrick-Bennett (Oliver Bennett), and the proud grandfather of Carter and Porter Bennett. He is survived by his sister Patricia Dixon (late Walter Dixon) and his brother Melvin (Yvonne Dittrick).

A Celebration of Life. Aug 4th at 1 to 4 pm. Lindsay Legion, 12 York st N. Luncheon Provided. Opportunity available to share stories, memories and love for Don. Interment at the Bowmanville cemetery off of Hains Rd on Aug 5th at 15:00.

Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, Minden
www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com/memorials/donald-dittrick/5724625/

In Loving Memory of

Jean Alma Randell

Passed away suddenly at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie on Sunday, July 5, 2026 at the age of 94.

Beloved wife of Harry (deceased). Loving mother of Heather and her husband Lloyd Morrison. Grandmother of Jim and Amanda Morrison and Sean and Kristy Morrison. Great Grandma of Lola, Molly, Oliver, Alice, Aadam, Mariam, Amaan, Isa, and Layla. Dear sister of Blanche and John Bell, Eleanor Collins (Bob – deceased) and Wally Yetman (deceased).

In keeping with Jean's wishes, cremation has taken place. A Graveside Committal Service and Interment will be held at the St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, Maple Lake on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 11:00 am. Reception to follow at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636, 12847 Hwy 35, Minden, ON K0M 2K0.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Christina Donaldson

Resident of Haliburton

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Saturday evening, June 20, 2026, in her 75th year. Beloved wife of the late Dennis Hunter. Cherished daughter of Marion Donaldson and the late Larry Donaldson. Loving mother of Jason. Dear sister of Gerry and Stephan. Predeceased by her brother Warren. Also lovingly remembered by her Aunt Lois, her niece Angela, her nephews Jeffrey and Travis, as well as her friends Diana, Connie, Debbie, and Sharon. Chris was a homebody; she especially enjoyed the time she spent in her apartment. For the last few years, Chris was dedicated to caring for her mother, Marion, and her little dog, Buttons. Christina worked as a Personal Support Worker at Extendicare - Haliburton for many years before retiring to enjoy a life filled with simple pleasures at home.

Graveside Service

A Graveside Service will take place on Tuesday, July 21st, 2026, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Evergreen Cemetery in Haliburton, Ontario. As an expression of sympathy, donations to a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Helen Emma Gardner

April 16, 1928 - July 9, 2026

It is with deep love and fond remembrance that the family of Helen Gardner announce her peaceful passing, surrounded by family, at Highland Wood on Thursday, July 9th, in her 99th year.

Helen was born and grew up in Toronto in a family with Scottish roots. She married her beloved Lloyd Gardner (predeceased) in 1949, raising their family in Oshawa. Helen moved to Haliburton in 2000. She leaves behind her children, Nancy (Al), David (Sylvie), grandchildren Jamie (predeceased), Jana (Joe), Kelsey, Daniel, Carolyne (Narsing), Julie (Dominik) and great grandsons William and Kian.

Helen lived a life deeply rooted in her faith. She was a proud and active member of the Baha'i community. Her beliefs were not just spoken but lived out daily through her generosity, integrity, kindness, and the quiet way she lifted others. Helen enjoyed spending time with her family and was actively involved in her community, including volunteering for many years at Haliburton Lily Ann Thrift Store.

Helen's warmth, love for life, and ability to bring joy to those around her will never be forgotten. She will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege to know her.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family were invited to call on Monday, July 13, 2026, at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 for a Funeral Service beginning at 11:00 a.m. Visitation 1 Hour prior. An Interment will follow at the Twelve Mile Cemetery, Minden Hills, Ontario. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Helen's memory can be made to a charity of your choice.

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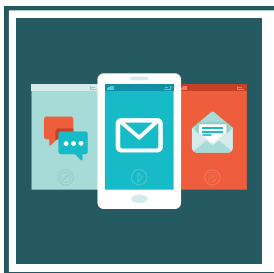
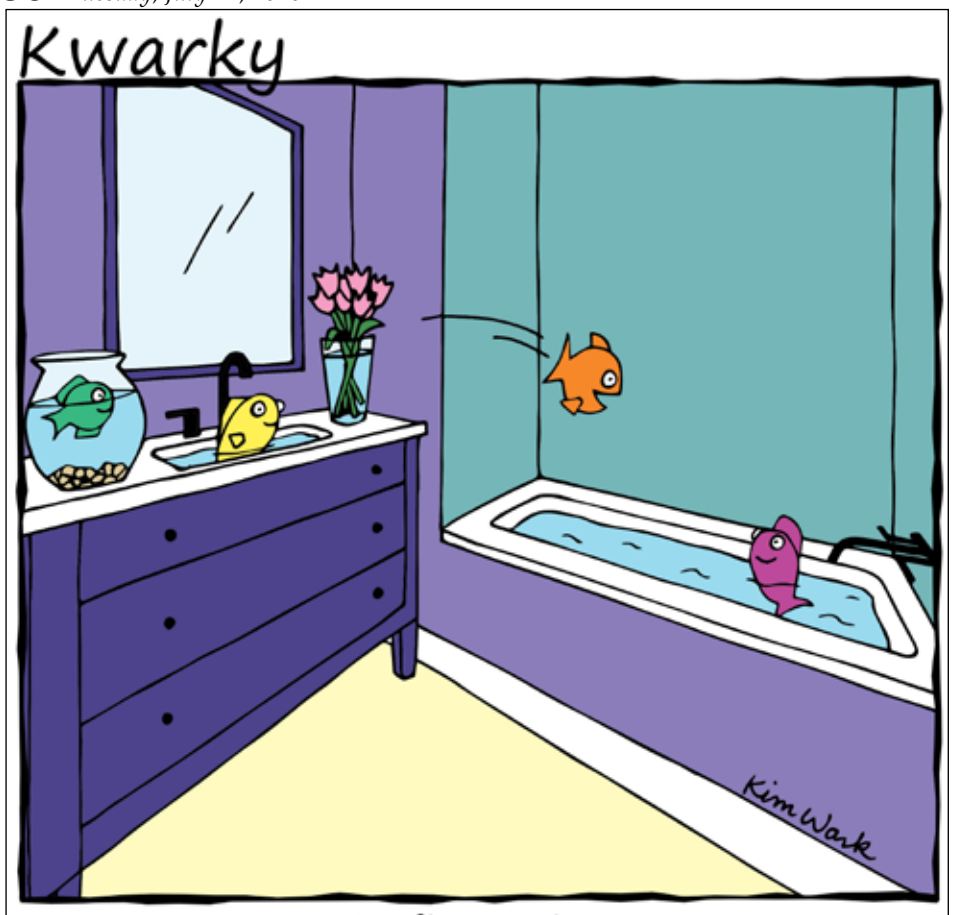


Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com



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		4					7	
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	3				7		2	
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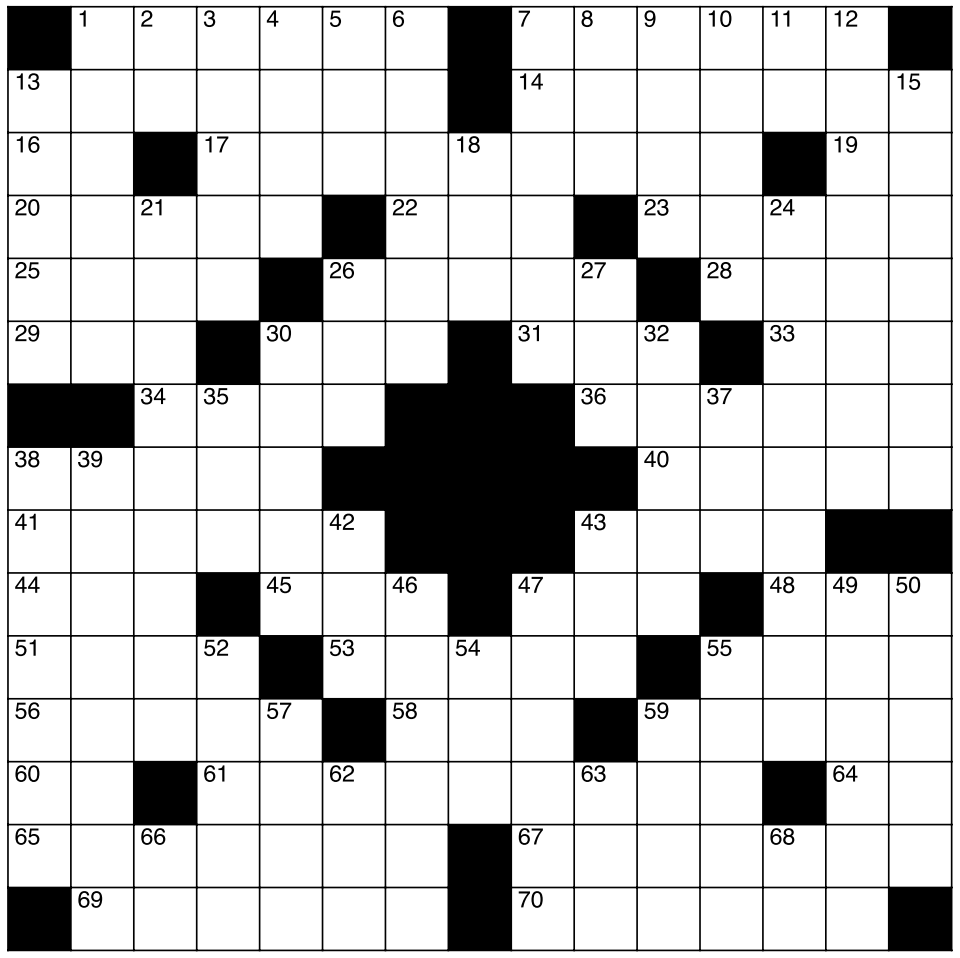
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CLUES ACROSS
1. Mended
7. Hymns
13. Commercial transport of goods
14. Poked holes in the ground
16. They precede C
17. Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
19. Larry and Curly's pal
20. Injured
22. Popular type of dance
23. Moon crater
25. American state
26. Places to lock valuables
28. Stalk that supports the capsule
29. Keyboard key
30. `__ death do us part
31. A type of cage
33. A place to sleep
34. Annual music awards show
36. Made over
38. Hard, stony substance
40. Incantations
41. Long-legged, wading bird
43. Breathe noisily
44. Congressman
45. Rip off
47. Golf score
48. Popular pickup truck
51. Where infants sleep
53. Music term
55. Small opening in a surface
56. Musical term meaning "very'
58. Soviet Socialist Republic
59. Treats with powder
60. Email subject line feature
61. A British lawyer
64. Expression of laughter
65. Farmer's calendar
67. Seeds used as food
69. Eurasian shrubs
70. Periods of inactivity

CLUES DOWN
1. Hard things to kick
2. Collective of countries
3. Letter of Hebrew alphabet
4. One-time Alabama running back Eddie
5. One's sense of self-esteem
6. Of the teeth
7. Treat with care
8. Type of whale
9. Curved structure
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. One of the Gospels (abbr.)
12. Smallest interval in western music
13. Netherlands seat of government
15. Gives to charitably
18. Lout
21. Pastas
24. Release from restrictions
26. Female sibling
27. Title of respect
30. Silver coins
32. Region in India
35. Partner to cheese
37. Dark or dusky
38. Pacific Northwest tree
39. Exaggerate
42. Toddler
43. Touch lightly
46. Fundamentals
47. Jeopardies
49. Curved structures
50. Isolated, flat-topped hills
52. Forming the bottom layer
54. Reciprocal of sine
55. Genus of Old World birds
57. New York college
59. Cloak
62. Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
63. Vietnamese offensive
66. "The Great Lakes State"
68. "__, myself and I"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THIS WEEK
Old and New
Stanhope opens its new museum ... page 5

THIS WEEK
At the Cottage
For coverage of Drag and Kashagawigamog AGMs, see 6,20, 28

COUNTY LIFE
Centre of the Storm
Ann Vanstone survived the tornado. Now she's in the midst of storm over education reform

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
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TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1997 Vol. 115, No. 22 • 52 PAGES 90 cents (incl. GST)

Water quality protection about to become more challenging, expert says

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

With new improvements to septic systems and the withdrawal of provincial input on shoreline development, municipalities are going to have to arm themselves with more information and knowledge if they don't want to allow lakeside development to run rampant, says a water quality specialist who's represented both developers and development opponents.

"You'll have to look after your own ship or something will come along to cause it to leak," limnologist Michael Michalski recently told the Drag Lake Property Owners' Association when he presented his lake capacity study for Drag and Spruce (Art) Lakes.

Michalski successfully lobbied the province to research new environmentally-friendly ways of dealing with sewage in places where treatment plants are not available or affordable, and is on a committee overseeing the project. "It's ridiculous we develop around lakes knowing we will affect water quality because we can't treat sewage properly."

However, he warns that many existing water quality studies, including his own, are based primarily on septic system runoff predictions.

If septic systems no longer pollute, what will people support their objections to development with? It will be too easy for developers to say that with the new septic technology, development will have no impact on the lake environment.

"If new technology comes on

See MINISTRIES page 4

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Highland Games

Haliburton's own Legion Pipe Band, above, was among the performers who entertained the crowd at Head Lake Park during the games on Saturday. Bill Knox from Fort Erie, far right, who also judged and scored the heavy events competition at the Highland Games, competed in the events which included the stone throw. (Harry MacDonald, "the strongest man in the world," retains his title taking first place over his four competitors.) Maggie Keppie, right, shared her angelic voice with the Highland Games audience when she entertained with a few traditional Scottish tunes in both Gaelic and English.

EMERGENCY CALLS:

Getting help isn't as easy as dialing 9-1-1

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It sure isn't 9-1-1.

When Mary Hincks discovered that some road signs belonging to the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization had been stolen, she immediately picked up her phone to call the police.

That was the easy part.

First, she had to disregard the bright orange sticker her association had distributed, giving all the important emergency numbers. The toll-free number for the OPP had changed since the stickers had been printed.

So, she dialed the new number, 1-888-310-1122. A voice in Orillia answered and the questions began.

What township was she in? "Anson, Hindon and Minden." That's three townships (amalgamated to form a municipality). He needed a single township. She settled for Minden. (Anson and Hindon are to the north of Minden village.) How do you spell Kashagawigamog? What does N85 mean (as a lot identification number)?

"This was very, very frustrating," the LKO's past president told fellow members at Saturday night's annual general meeting at PineStone. "When I was finally through answering the questions, I was told someone from the Minden OPP detachment would get back to me. An hour and a half later, a constable phoned me but when I told him I was reporting the theft of road signs, he said I had to call back to the 1-888 number."

As a result, she warned the 100 or so members that when they had cause to phone the police, they'd better be prepared

See REPORTING page 4

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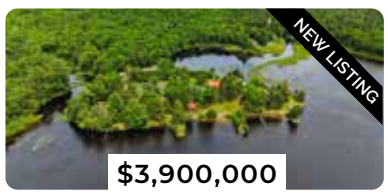

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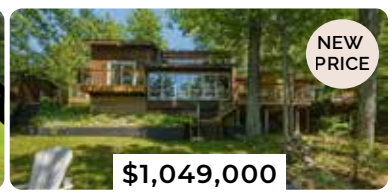
KENNISIS LAKE


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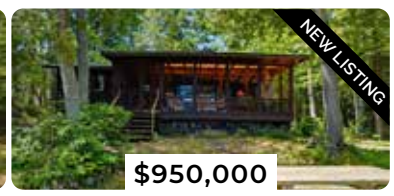
GRACE LAKE


$950,000
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GULL LAKE

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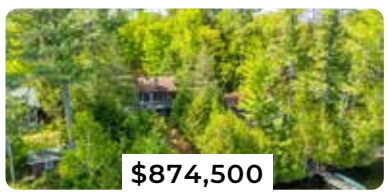
GOODERHAM LAKE

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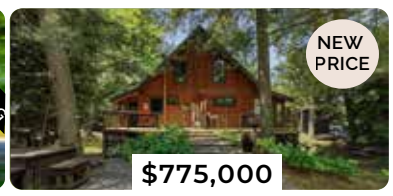
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12953212

BARNUM LAKE


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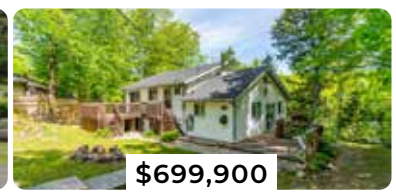
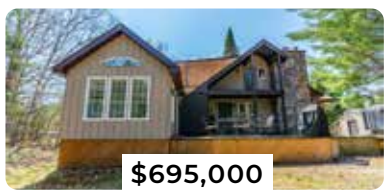
KUSHOG LAKE

$695,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13467324

LONG LAKE

$699,900
BED 6 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13034386

KENNISIS RIVER

$695,000
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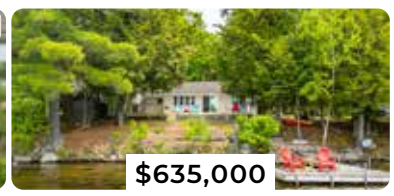
SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE

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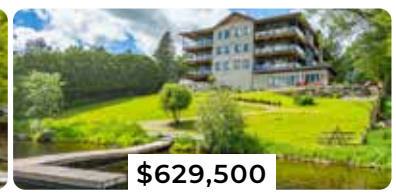
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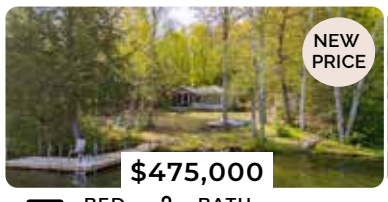
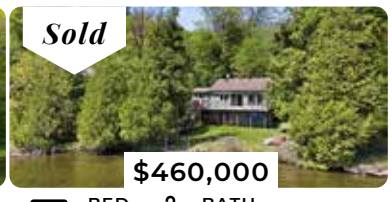


$475,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE


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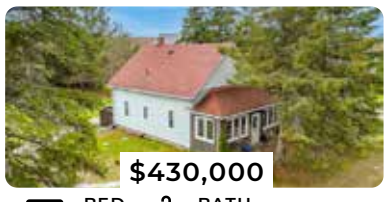
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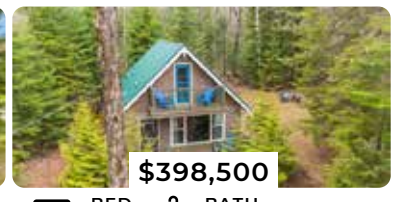
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